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**Give us 'Head'**  
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# BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 29 • No. 45 • 11 November 1999

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## GOP endorses Brown

by Cynthia Laird

With the race for next month's runoff election in full swing, Mayor Willie Brown quickly shored up support from one group that has traditionally not backed him — Republicans. At the Monday, November 8 meeting of the San Francisco County Republican Central Committee, the group grudgingly gave Brown its endorsement.

Brown — a Democrat — finished first in last Tuesday's election, and with most of the ballots counted, received about 40 percent of the vote. Board of Supervisors President Tom Ammiano stunned political observers and most city residents with a second-place showing in his write-in bid. Ammiano has about 25 percent of the vote.

Former Mayor Frank Jordan, whom the Republican Central Committee members



Mayor Willie Brown

supported — though not with an official endorsement — finished third with about 17 percent of the vote. As of last Friday, 183,570 ballots had been counted in the race for mayor. About 10,000 ballots remain to be counted, Elections Department officials said. Since neither Brown nor Ammiano received more than 50 percent of the vote, a runoff takes place on December 14.

Local Republican Central Committee members discussed the endorsement with state GOP leaders beforehand, and got their approval. While Brown is viewed by Republicans as the very symbol of Democratic liberalism in the state, Ammiano's more liberal position on most issues was enough for the GOP to endorse Brown.

The central committee needed 60 percent, or 16 votes, to endorse Brown. It got 18 votes.

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## Gay veterans ready to parade



Members of the gay Alexander Hamilton Post 448 of the American Legion gathered around mayoral candidate Supervisor Tom Ammiano at the start of San Francisco's Veterans Day Parade last Sunday, November 7. Ammiano has begun campaigning in earnest since coming in second in the mayor's race last week and will face Mayor Willie Brown in a December 14 runoff.

## Ammiano in runoff

by Terry Beswick

There's a buzz in the air at Tom Ammiano's campaign headquarters at Josie's Cabaret and Juice Joint at 16th and Market streets.

"We're going to have a new mayor," said Robert Haaland, a campaign spokesperson.

Ammiano overcame the odds on Tuesday, November 2, when his last-minute insurgent candidacy inspired 25 percent of the voters to go to the polls, take out a pen, and write his name on the ballot as their choice for the next mayor of San Francisco.

The president of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors had entered the race as a write-in candidate less than three weeks before the general election. His campaign raised only about \$25,000 in small donations for the grassroots effort — compared to the record-breaking millions spent by his three main adversaries, incumbent Mayor Willie Brown, former Mayor Frank Jordan, and former political consultant Clint Reilly.

Now, all bets are off. Ammiano's amazing second-place finish puts him on the December 14 ballot with Brown, who garnered about 39 percent of the vote.

"They liked the idea that it's not just about money and endorsements," Ammiano said on the steps of City Hall last Thursday, November 4, after his victory was announced. "We've turned the system around, for better or for worse."

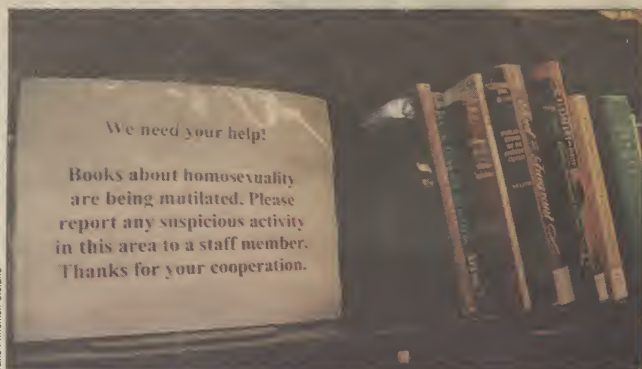
The mayoral runoff has frequently been characterized in the media as a battle between the far-left progressive Ammiano versus the liberal Brown. But Ammiano campaign officials said they plan to focus on their candidate's record, and his stance on the issues. Many of the core people working on the campaign are progressive activists

who have worked in the city for decades on homelessness, labor issues, AIDS, gay rights, environmental protection, and a variety of other causes.

"It has pulled in people who are issue-based and who care about the things that Tom cares about," said activist Eileen Hansen. "People who long ago turned their backs on the electoral process as being useless and disempowering."

Ammiano, who previously has won four citywide elections, was supported by an outright majority of voters in seven of 25 neighborhoods: Haight-Ashbury, Inner Sunset, Mission, Noe Valley, North Bernal Heights, Potrero Hill, and Upper Market/Eureka Valley. Brown won the remaining 18 neighborhoods, but suffered from a low voter turnout in his traditional strongholds, such as

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A sign in the San Francisco Main Library warns of a vandal who is tampering with gay books.

## Library vandal strikes gay books

by Katie Szymanski

On the third floor of the San Francisco Public Library, where the nonfiction section becomes the gay and lesbian section, there hangs a sign: "We need your help! Books about homosexuality are being mutilated. Please report any suspicious activity in this area to a staff member. Thanks for your cooperation."

The signs have been up for a few weeks now, but Jim Van Buskirk, program manager of the James Hormel Gay and Lesbian Center, said they haven't deterred a very systematic operation to take gay titles out of circulation.

Someone — or some people — has been tearing the bar codes out of gay titles, effectively prohibiting anyone from checking out the books. Hundreds of books have been mutilated in the past six months. Van Buskirk said he receives a stack of about six to 12 dam-

aged gay and lesbian books per week.

"We started finding small batches of mutilated books, where the person is taking out the page that has the bar code on it, and sometimes multiple pages, in an attempt to prohibit other people from checking out the material," Van Buskirk told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

When a book is found without a bar code, it must be transferred to the preservation department to be repaired. The process takes a few days, and, according to Van Buskirk, once it is completed the same book is often mutilated again.

Sometimes the vandalism is found when a patron goes to the check-out counter, other times it is the staff that discovers the missing bar code during the re-shelving process. And while patrons will sometimes tear out bar codes in an attempt to pass through security gates with a stolen book in tow, this mutilation is so distinct that staff members have surmised there is a method to the madness.

"We have books stolen all the time, as well as vandalized," said Van Buskirk. "But this is

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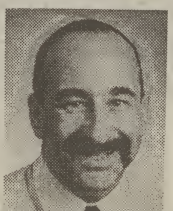
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## Palm Springs Pride



International Ms. Leather '88 Shann Carr, left, shares a convertible with San Francisco's Empress Donna Sachet, right, at the annual Pride Parade in Palm Springs, California last Sunday, November 7. With "Prideful Past, Powerful Future" as the theme, event organizers said this year's parade was the biggest ever.

## Pride or prejudice?

### Tensions divide parade committee

by Katie Szymanski

Is it "about freedom" or is it about a male-dominated circle of insiders trying to silence some of its members? Inquiring minds of the San Francisco Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Pride Celebration Committee, Inc. want to know, while board members claim they are being attacked for mistakes that were not their fault and were not made maliciously.

Although tensions had been brewing within the Pride Committee for a while, the situation came to a head last month, when Pride Board President Calvin Gipson announced that the September 12 board elections would be invalidated because of questions about the eligibility of some of the voters. Did a non-member vote? Did a member vote more than once? What constituted a "member" anyway?

Over the course of the years, what is defined as a "member" of the Pride Committee has changed. Used to be, anyone serving as a co-chair, staff member, or board member, as well as anyone attending two consecutive meetings, was automatically a member. No written application was required. Then, in 1998, the committee voted to rewrite the bylaws to state that anyone who completed an application was a member. No attendance minimum or Pride exposition was required. Technically, however, members before 1998



Gilbert Baker

were still considered members after 1998, even if they didn't fill out the application. So when a board candidate raised the issue of whether a non-member had voted in the election, the Pride Committee realized it could not make that determination.

"We simply don't have the records," Gipson told the committee at an October meeting. Gipson consulted with the organization's attorney and decided that the election "needed to be beyond reproach," and promised in the meantime to appoint those who were newly elected to the board. He did so, with the exception of seven-year volunteer and former treasurer Leigh Christopher, who was absent from the meeting.

Rainbow flag creator and Pride member Gilbert Baker was on hand to protest Christopher's exclusion as well as the election's invalidation. Baker alleged that offi-

cials could be using the election's invalidation as a way to selectively appoint people who agreed with the staff's philosophy. It was no secret that Christopher had her issues with alleged sexism on the Pride Committee as well as disagreements over how the committee's finances were handled. Baker, however, was repeatedly silenced during the meeting.

"It's a pathetic story," Baker told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "What they are doing here is deciding which ones of the elected ones are okay and which ones aren't."

At the following meeting, Christopher was not allowed to vote because her membership was in question — despite Gipson's own assertions that previous members would remain members.

"It's weird to put a lot of time into something and then be told 'We're not sure who you are,'" Christopher told the *B.A.R.* "We changed the bylaws last year to make membership easier, but they're using them to make it really exclusive."

Both Christopher and Baker said the exclusiveness extends beyond the membership roster and into the organization's general operations.

"They have known for two years that they don't know who their members are, and it's not up to a couple of people in a closed session to decide if an election is valid," said Baker.

Christopher said women were often left out of the decision-making process, a practice that has led to the resignation of several Pride Committee members.

"It has just deteriorated," said Christopher. "It used to be a lot of different interest groups. But now it seems like most people who were 'different' have quit."

Her concerns were echoed at the early October meeting, where another woman in the room told Gipson and others that inclusion of women continued to be "a problem."

John Caldera, acting treasurer of the committee, quickly disagreed and turned the conversation back to the closed meeting with the group's attorney "who's a woman," he said emphatically, smiling and waving his finger.

The women in the room seemed unimpressed.

Still, Christopher does not at

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## COMMUNITY NEWS

# Bathhouse drive fails – again

by Terry Beswick

A much ballyhooed campaign to let San Francisco voters decide whether to lift the ban on gay bathhouses went down the drain this week.

The effort, led by activist Michael Petrelis, failed to gather the 10,500 valid signatures required to put the issue on the March 2000 city ballot. Monday, November 8 was the deadline to file petitions with the San Francisco Department of Elections.

An earlier attempt to add the measure to the November 1999 ballot was unsuccessful.

At press time, it was not clear how many signatures had been gathered in the most recent drive.

"I believe they were short by about 1,000," said Michael Bellefontaine of ACT UP/San Francisco, adding that his group "just kind of supported it and helped out where we could."

But David Pasquarelli, also of ACT UP/SE, said that only 4,000 signatures had been gathered, and these were "not yet validated." He said that while there were a dozen people involved in the petition drive, there were only "six hard-core" people collecting signatures.

The failure deprived local voters of the opportunity to overrule San Francisco Department of Public Health (DPH) Director Mitch Katz on the issue.

The ban on private spaces in gay bathhouses was imposed by

former public health director Mervyn Silverman in 1984, at the advent of the AIDS epidemic.

Despite a recent recommendation that the ban be lifted from the HIV Prevention Planning Council, the city's chief advisory body on HIV prevention issues, Katz has steadfastly maintained the ban, and the Health Commission concurred.

Petrelis did not return repeated calls from the *Bay Area Reporter* seeking comment. But Bellefontaine commented, "The baths should be open because gay men are responsible in 1999."

Bellefontaine called the campaign a "learning experience," and said they will try to collect enough signatures again, this time for the November 2000 ballot. ▼

## Didn't vote last week? Register by Monday

by Katie Szymanski

You were sitting on the fence, or you decided not to register to vote because your favorite candidate wasn't running. Well, here's your last chance to be a part of next month's wild and crazy runoff races in San Francisco.

This Monday, November 15, is the deadline to register to vote in the December 14 runoff between Mayor Willie Brown and his challenger, Board of Supervisors President Tom Ammiano, and the

runoff between District Attorney Terence Hallinan and his challenger, former prosecutor Bill Fazio.

Completed registration cards must be turned into the Department of Elections office at City Hall this Monday by 5 p.m., unless you personally deliver your forms to a deputy sheriff at City Hall (on the Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place side) by midnight. And while postmarks in themselves are not a guarantee, if the office receives your forms by Wednesday, November 17, and they are postmarked by November 15, your registration will be valid.

Finding forms at most post offices and libraries at this late date will be "hit or miss," according to the Department of Elections, but some campaigns will have booths on the street and you can obtain a form from them. The surest way to receive a form is to go to the registrar's office, room 48 in the basement of City Hall, or request one via telephone. Department of Elections hours are weekdays from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. For more information, or to have a registration form mailed to you, call (415) 554-4375. ▼

## Bears hungry for beneficiaries

by Katie Szymanski

The Bears are on the prowl... for agencies to receive their money. Bears of San Francisco (BOSF) is soliciting applications from nonprofit organizations interested in being beneficiaries of the group's International Bear Rendezvous, a weekend festival in February that raises money for selected charities.

The annual rendezvous event – when several hundred husky men and their admirers descend upon San Francisco to participate in raffles, auctions, contests, and other activities – collects thousands of dollars for its beneficiaries, which have included the HIV

in Prison Committee of California Prison Focus, the Gay and Lesbian Historical Society of Northern California, and the Gay and Lesbian National Hotline. Traditionally, beneficiaries include two organizations from the Bay Area and one national group.

The deadline for applications is this Monday, November 15, but interested organizations that have not yet been in contact with BOSF should call immediately and "We'll see what we can do," according to beneficiary liaison Jason Macario.

"There are so many worthy and interesting groups," said Macario, "We stay in contact with many of our beneficiaries, but it's always nice to find somebody new."

Formed in 1994, BOSF has over 200 members worldwide and has raised over \$100,000 for local and national charities. ▼

To request an application, call (415) 541-5000 or e-mail [info@bosf.org](mailto:info@bosf.org).

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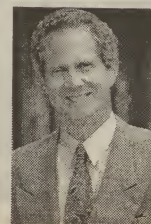
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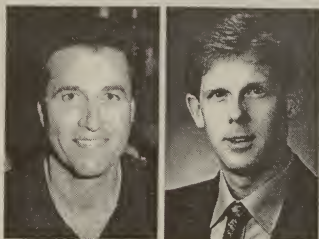
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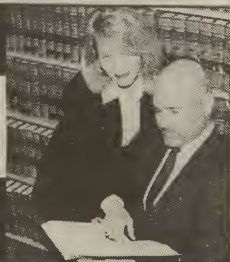
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# Help for male victims of childhood sexual assaults or adult rape

by Terry Beswick

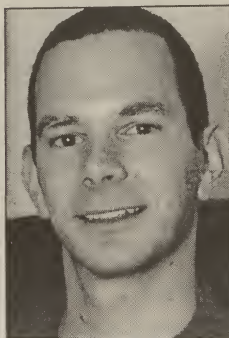
**F**ree individual and group psychotherapy sessions are now available in San Francisco for male victims of childhood sexual abuse or adult rape.

The psychotherapy services are being offered through the Men's Sexual Trauma Program at the San Francisco Rape Treatment Center. Individuals who believe that past sexually traumatic experiences are related to their current psychological or emotional distress may be eligible to participate in the sessions, ranging in length from six to 18 months.

"Generally, it's accepted that one in five men has some history of sexual trauma as either an adult or a child," though some research shows the number could be even higher, said Rick Nizzardini, MSW. "Male rape is a silent and serious epidemic."

Nizzardini, the program's creator, has conducted extensive research on gay and bisexual men's experiences of rape. Among his findings, he reports a high proportion of adult rapes by persons known to the victim, and a high incidence of sexual assaults involving alcohol or drugs.

Assaults perpetrated on male victims range from instances of gang rape, date or acquaintance rape, childhood incest or molesta-



Rick Nizzardini

tion, and attacks by intimate partners.

According to Nizzardini, long-term effects of childhood sexual abuse and adult rape include difficulty with interpersonal relationships and intimacy, depression, work-related difficulties, questioning of sexual orientation, low self-esteem, recurring nightmares, and sexual dysfunction.

"Sexual dysfunction may mean you avoid sex, or you go to extremes," said Nizzardini.

Frequently, male sexual trauma victims are referred to specialized counseling by another counselor or therapist. "You really have to work with men before you can

identify that what has happened to them is sexual abuse," Nizzardini said. "All the shame around that prevents them from talking about it."

Additionally, gay and bisexual male victims often feel isolated and alienated by the gay community following the attack, according to the researcher.

"There's a community denial about getting raped," he said. "One of my men said he had such a hard time admitting he knew this person that he created a whole scenario that was easier for him to tolerate, and so that others would be more likely to sympathize."

Funded by the Open Society Institute in New York City, the Men's Sexual Trauma Program is also offering free in-service education and training seminars to anyone wanting more information. Additionally, Nizzardini plans to form a Bay Area community coalition to address the needs of male survivors of childhood sexual assault and adult rape.

The psychotherapy program is accepting applicants for both individual and group sessions on an ongoing basis. ▼

For more information, or to  
arrange an intake interview,  
call Rick Nizzardini at (415)  
821-3222.

## State gay lobby group to hold SF benefit

by Terry Beswick

**S**tate Assemblywoman Carole Migden (D-San Francisco) will be the featured speaker at a Potrero Heights cocktail party on Thursday, November 18. The gathering will benefit the California Alliance for Pride and

Equality (CAPE), the only statewide lobbying group representing the interests of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered (LGBT) Californians in state government.

Founded just last year, CAPE is the heir apparent to the now-defunct Lobby for Individual Freedom and Equality (LIFE), which had been the chief lobbying group on gay and AIDS issues in Sacramento. CAPE is focusing primarily on gay rights legislation, while another new group, the California HIV/AIDS Advocacy Coalition, will lobby on AIDS bills.

Since its formation, CAPE helped persuade legislators to support Migden's landmark domestic partner registry bill, which was signed into law by Governor Gray Davis last month, in addition to bills protecting gays and lesbians in housing and employment, and protecting LGBT students from harassment in public schools.

"It's that kind of hard work that we're doing that is changing the face of life for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people in this state," said Kay Ostberg,

CAPE's first executive director. The organization is also actively working with a statewide coalition to defeat Proposition 22, the Knight initiative.

Ostberg and San Francisco Supervisor Mark Leno, a leader in the No on Knight Campaign, will also speak at the benefit.

Ostberg told the *Bay Area Reporter* that her organization needs to build a broad base of support to fight anti-gay legislation, as well as to secure equal rights for gay people. "We have domestic partnership with one right — hospital visitation privileges," she said. "We need to fill that basket with all the other rights that go with marriage."

Hosted by Steve Collier and Frank Patt at their home at 893 Wisconsin Street at 20th Street, cocktails and hors d'oeuvres will be served from 6 to 8 p.m. Admission to the event is \$75 per person; sponsorships in greater amounts are also encouraged. ▼

For more information on the  
event, call Steve Collier at  
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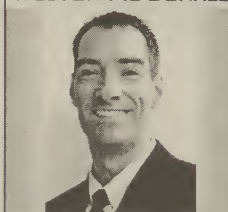
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# Hallinan and Fazio in runoff for DA

by Katie Szymanski

They want to promote lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) rights, would like a diverse staff, and plan to focus on prosecuting violent offenders. With an even 38 percent of the vote in last week's election for each candidate, next month's runoff for district attorney between incumbent Terence Hallinan and challenger Bill Fazio will be a tight race, and one based on similar agendas. The main question, according to both of them, is who can get the job done.

One issue between them — medical marijuana — will be debated at the San Francisco Patients' Resource Center on Tuesday, December 7. Sponsored by the Clinical Cannabis Community, the debate will give the candidates a chance to point out why each other's approach is wrong.

"Bill wants medical marijuana, but he wants it done 'respectably,' by which I guess he means a bureaucracy," Hallinan told the *Bay Area Reporter*, adding that the DA's office is now in the process of creating medical marijuana identification cards. "Bill's version wants the police to authorize medical marijuana, and I have a problem with that."

Fazio, however, said that no matter how Hallinan handled marijuana cases in his office, people are still getting arrested.

"My problem with his approach is the fact that somehow medical marijuana is still a problem for law enforcement," Fazio, a former prosecutor in the DA's office, told the *B.A.R.* "If he actually had the respect of law enforcement he could convince them not to harass people with medical marijuana. I believe I can call a meeting with police to discuss the

issue of medical marijuana where we lay out a plan and they seriously listen to me. If Terence called a meeting, nobody would show up."

Indeed, Hallinan does not have support of San Francisco's police, in part because of a *San Francisco Chronicle* story that revealed his record of "the lowest conviction rate in the state."

But Hallinan counters that report by pointing out that violent crime in San Francisco has dropped, because he focuses on putting violent offenders in prison and rehabilitating others.

"Crime rates are plummeting and we keep building new prisons and filling them," said Hallinan. "There's a disconnect here. I don't believe life in prison is a reasonable solution for a substance abuse problem."

"At the same time," Hallinan continued, "we are tough on violent crime. We won 18 straight murder cases, with one hung jury."

That hung jury was the Edgard Mora trial, a case prosecuted as an anti-gay hate crime that Fazio said should have been a victory.

"He should have learned from history that the case wouldn't have gotten a murder conviction," said Fazio, who prosecuted — and won — an anti-gay murder case similar to the Mora trial in the early 1980s. The conviction was later downgraded to manslaughter by an appeals court, based on the fact that it was a single punch that caused the death of the victim. In the Mora trial, a single punch outside the Loading Dock gay bar was responsible for the death of city resident Brian Wilmes in March 1998. Fazio claims that based on the similarities, Hallinan's office could have easily won a manslaughter case. Hallinan, however, says it was the

responsible thing to go for murder.

"We could have always gotten a manslaughter out of it," said Hallinan, "but sometimes we try to go that extra mile."

That extra mile is evident in Hallinan's LGBT work. As a city supervisor, he authored and passed the first transgender anti-discrimination legislation in the United States. He has increased the number of LGBT attorneys on his staff by 60 percent, and 85 percent of all his hires are LGBT people, women, or people of color. His office prosecuted the first transgender hate crime case in California. He launched a program where advocates train the police department on LGBT issues, specifically targeting transgender discrimination. He created the city's same-sex domestic violence program in 1996, which employs advocates — including a lesbian who does outreach to women at the Lyon-Martin Health Clinic — to provide information and support to victims. He has received the endorsements of Supervisors Tom Ammiano, Leslie Katz, and Mark Leno, State Assemblywoman Carole Migden, Department of Health Director Mitch Katz, the *Bay Guardian*, the Harvey Milk Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Democratic Club, and the Alice B. Toklas Lesbian and Gay

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## OPEN FORUM

## A coward in the library

The news this week that someone is deliberately vandalizing gay and lesbian books at the San Francisco Main Library made us stand up and take notice once again that homophobia is alive and well even in San Francisco. It seems that someone with way too much time on their hands is systematically going through books on gay and lesbian subject matter and removing the bar codes, effectively preventing the books from being checked out by patrons. As we report on page one, Jim Van Buskirk, program manager at the library's Hormel Gay and Lesbian Center, has been receiving anywhere from six to 12 tampered books a week, and this has been going on for the past six months.

When the library's low-key efforts to stop the vandalism were unsuccessful, signs went up a few weeks ago asking patrons to be on the lookout for suspicious activity. We hope some alert staff member or library user spots the perpetrator, and that this cowardly act soon comes to an end.

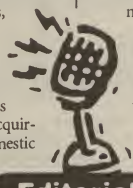
The library vandal – or vandals – is obviously someone homophobic, but in this case, the anti-gay acts have taken on a more subtle tone. The gay books aren't being defaced or otherwise damaged, they're just being altered so that no one else can enjoy them. Yes, the books are being repaired, but that also takes them out of circulation for days at a time, and on occasion, the repaired books end up being tampered with again.

This subtlety seems to be the latest trend in anti-gay activity, and it demands attention from the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community. Another example is the Focus on the Family ad that this newspaper accepted last month, after deciding to donate the money to charity. Nowhere in the ad did it mention anything about ex-gays or an anti-gay message. Instead, it was the subtle "Find answers to your questions about homosexuality." That could have been the message from any number of gay self-

help groups, but it wasn't.

We, as a community, need to closely examine things which on the surface may not scream anti-gay messages, but below the surface, the anti-gay statement is there, nonetheless.

The recent vandalism at the library comes to light at a time when the LGBT community here and across the state has made great strides in acquiring rights, such as the statewide domestic partner registry and the city's landmark equal benefits law. Locally, Board of Supervisors President Tom Ammiano is making history as an openly gay candidate for mayor after his surprising finish in last week's election. Ammiano will face Mayor Willie Brown, himself a longtime supporter of the LGBT community, in a December 14 runoff election.



Editorial

It is our expectation that in the coming weeks, homophobia will not become an issue in the mayor's race. While people may not agree with the progressive Ammiano, this election is not about choosing a gay mayor. It is about the future of San Francisco, and who has the leadership ability to bring the city into the 21st century. Both Brown and Ammiano have pledged to a series of debates throughout the city, and we look forward to meaningful discussions on the issues affecting all of us. Both candidates say they want that too.

To the coward at the library: People will be watching for you. Removing the bar codes from library books may make you feel like you're undermining the spirit of the LGBT community, but you're not. ▼



## Transphobia in tragic Toronto

by Katrina C. Rose

For transsexuals, the words most damaging to our lives appeared during the week before Halloween from Texas Fourth Court of Appeals Chief Justice Phil Hardberger in the horrifically flawed majority opinion in *Littleton v. Prange*, denying transsexuals the ability to marry as their post-transition gender. The most bigoted words of the week, however, appeared in the *Toronto Sun* the day after the opinion was released – and actually are not in reference to the decision but, rather, constitute stand-alone bigotry. The author was Michael Coren.

It was the most vicious, hate-filled, ignorance-drenched piece of garbage that I have ever seen attributed to a major newspaper either in Canada or the U.S., rivaling the psychoses-driven babble of Fred Phelps, Lon Mabon, and Robert Talton.

Coren's column self-proves the need for precisely the type of education of which he is apparently afraid.

A recent report by the Ontario Human Rights Commission that stated "Education about gender identity is crucial to both transgendered and non-transgendered people" is, according to Coren, "based on a radical agenda [that] is obvious to everyone. The only people who seem to be promoting all this rubbish are those intent on smashing gender differences and doctors who make a great deal of money telling mentally ill men that it's okay to want to have your willy cut off."

There is a vast difference between freedom of speech and license to perpetrate unbridled lying. Before a newspaper lets words such as "There is no such thing as a transsexual. There is no such thing as a man in a woman's body or a woman in a man's body" appear in its pages, its editors should do at least a modicum of research to find out whether they are totally devoid of truth and accuracy.

Coren's column was the press embodi-

ment of the ultimate lie. It is proof not only of the need for education on transsexuality but of the need for recognition of class-action libel as a cause of action. Coren and, vicariously, the *Toronto Sun* defamed every transsexual and intersexual person on the planet.

I'd like for Coren to explain whether one particular male-to-female transsexual client of mine actually exists. This particular client felt as though she was "a woman in a man's body." During her gender treatment program, she discovered that she has two X chromosomes – the typical female pattern. Her brain said female but her genitals said male – and her chromosomes said female. Did she imagine having a penis or is she imagining having XX chromosomes?

Or did I simply imagine that she exists?

The public does need education on the fact that as much as 10 percent of the population has some sort of medically-recognized gender abnormality – due either to odd chromosome patterns, hormone imbalances during pregnancy, or other causes yet to be determined.

Coren's assertion that a transsexual "needs to put in a hard week's work fifty times a year so that he stops concocting neurotic nightmares and gets on with leading a meaningful life" is just the next generation of the "homosexuality can be cured" scam. Together with the Littleton opinion's partial reliance on the federal Defense of Marriage Act (are you listening, Human Rights Campaign?), it now should be abundantly clear that all gays, lesbians, bisexuals – as well as reality-acknowledging straights – should stand united.

The only thing "wrong, dangerous and unnatural" is the sick bigotry of people like Coren. Without exception, the "legion of painful issues with which" transsexuals deal, emanate from living in the vise-grips of the crypto-religionist bigotry which breeds

people like Coren.

Just as people die as a result of the type of backward legal thinking that permeated the Littleton decision, people die because of the hate-validation conferred on the most wretched elements of society by the Corens of the world. Shit – similar lies probably influenced the Littleton decision (although, to be fair, Chief Justice Hardberger actually did acknowledge that transsexuality is real.) The *Toronto Sun* should be ashamed for aiding and abetting future hate crimes – via both violence and court decisions – against transgendered people.

Coren's loudest whine regarded the possibility of public funding of gender reassignment surgery.

A megadose of reality is necessary here: A thousand trillion dollars of public money spent per day, every day for a thousand years, on treatment of gender dysphoria in people who are trying to be productive citizens in spite of a very real physiological condition is an infinitely more efficient use of money than even a one-time expenditure – public or private – of but a single penny to treat lung cancer in people who have spent 30-plus years smoking, or to treat broken necks and truly-damaged brains of mangled athletes who wasted their bodies on attempts to do things that the human body was unquestionably not meant to do, such as race-car driving, skiing and boxing, to name but a few.

Perhaps someone from Canada can help me on this. Does the public health care system there pay for reparative therapy for bigots?

If not, it should. Michael Coren is in dire need of it. ▼

Katrina C. Rose is an attorney and refugee from religionist-occupied Texas, now living in Minnesota. She may be contacted at [TexKatrina@aol.com](mailto:TexKatrina@aol.com).



## LETTERS

## Turkeys, volunteers needed

Since this year is the 25th anniversary of Tenderloin Tessie's Holiday Dinners, we would like to thank everyone at the B.A.R. for its continual support over the years.

We hope our 25th year will continue to be successful, however, with the increasing homeless and the decreasing donations, we are asking for your help. Thanksgiving time is approaching, and we need turkeys, desserts, and anything else that could be useful for our dinner.

We need volunteers, decorations, and food. Anyone who is interested can call me at (415) 621-1169.

A.L. Allen, Secretary  
Tenderloin Tessie's Holiday Dinners

## Be respectful during campaign

On December 14, we face a choice of two talented and honorable individuals in the mayoral race, Mayor Brown and Supervisor Tom Ammiano each has enriched our community in many ways and each has earned our respect. Let us also respect one another's choices as we campaign for the candidates we choose to lead the city into a new millennium.

The quality of candidates in the runoff election for mayor of San Francisco honors our history of struggle and achievement and challenges us to act as a loving and diverse community. We continue to fight hard to gain respect as citizens of this nation, and we must not forget our shared interests and history as we complete a hard-fought election.

As we share the corner of 18th and Castro streets, the Castro Muni station, and the streets of our city over the coming weeks, let us be kind and respectful toward one another. Let us show the world the loving and caring community we have created and our willingness to respect ourselves and our diversity.

This is our time - to show our pride, to honor those who have supported us, and to demonstrate the quality of our community.

Alonzo Reese  
San Francisco

## Ammiano is a man of his times

I've lived in San Francisco for 25 years, long enough to see history repeat itself. Harvey Milk was a man of his times; Tom Ammiano is a man of his. Both men stepped forward when the times and circumstances demanded it of them. Like Harvey's, Tom's rise has occurred without the support of corporate interests, or local gay/lesbian politicians, or the Democratic Party establishment. If this is an unsettling turn of events for the powers that be, it is also an event that gives many of us - as San Franciscans - great hope. Clearly, Tom has struck a nerve in the collective San Francisco consciousness.

Those closely aligned with Mayor Brown seem rattled, as evidenced by Assemblywoman Carole Migden's comments to the *San Francisco Chronicle* (November 5) the day after Ammiano's stunning second place finish. Migden is quoted as saying, "With Tom you don't even know if he can get up for work." I trust that the majority of San Franciscans, even if they don't agree with Ammiano's positions, view him as smart, hard working, and dedicated. Surely Assemblywoman Migden can at least afford Supervisor Ammiano the respect he deserves at this moment.

Many of us are concerned about the direction San Francisco is going and we believe Ammiano is the best person to articulate and represent our position. When artists no longer feel welcome here because they can no longer afford to pay for their studios South of Market (myself included), then to my mind the future of this city is at risk. When chain stores threaten to obliterate the distinct qualities of our neighborhoods we stand to lose forever the character of what once was. Many of us don't want San Francisco to become another Generic City. Tom Ammiano rides Muni, has taught in our schools, has labored on our school board, and our Board of Supervisors; he lives in our neighborhoods. I believe he best understands these concerns and will get up every morning to work hard for the people who live here, and not just the money interests.

Rob Epstein  
San Francisco

## Issues around hate crimes law

Bob Roehr's recent article "Federal hate crimes legislation dead for this session" (*Bay Area Reporter*, October 22) contained a few misunderstandings. In reporting the demise of the federal legislation and HRC's response, he asks "What [Elizabeth] Birch did not demonstrate was how passage of the bill would have prevented such crimes, or appreciably changed the investigations or the prosecution of the perpetrators." The answer is of course, "not much is those particular cases," and those last three words make all the difference.

First, most opposition to hate crime laws tends to focus on capital crimes where the penalty is already

maximal and additional penalty nearly pointless. But that is to ignore the vast majority of crimes below the capital threshold where bias crime laws have their greater application and effectiveness. In fact, property crimes occur as often as armed assault, but opponents to hate crimes laws would have us believe that "Kill all Jews" spray-painted on a synagogue wall has no more repercussions than "Class of '99" spray-painted on a garage, that the former involves nothing more than the same cosmetic damage of paint on brick as the latter.

But the biggest flaw in Mr. Roehr's presumptions is in assuming that all bias crimes receive the same commitment and attention that his isolated examples did. In fact, a significant percentage of bias crimes are ignored by local law enforcement, and in many cases, the victims are further victimized by the police to which they report the incident. The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Projects reports that in 1998, 12 percent of bias-motivated violence against the GLBT community was actually perpetrated by law enforcement officers.

The Federal Hate Crimes Act was written in part to specifically address the deliberate apathy and/or outright hostility of local agencies toward the victims of bias crime. Passage of the act may not have made a difference in his selective examples, but those examples unfortunately tend to be the exception rather than the rule.

I can forgive Mr. Roehr, however, considering his quoted sources - none of which included anyone remotely connected to researching bias crime violence, monitoring bias crime incidents, or providing direct services and aid to victims. His sources have plenty of expertise in politics, but none regarding the actual issues at hand, and his citing Bill Dobbs is all the more amusing considering he has precious little expertise in either - anyone who claims with a straight face that freedom from criminal violence is "not a civil rights issue" should be laughed out of the room.

Keith Belt  
Chairman, Board of Trustees  
Triangle Foundation of Michigan

## Regarding the ad for Focus on the Family

Before you decided to take that ad, were you not aware that the suicide rate among GLBT youth is three times as high as it is among their straight peers? What are you going to say to those kids who may have not read the editorial and go to that conference, trusting it was okay because it was advertised on your pages?

I have heard many members of our community say "If my publicly coming out will save just one kid from going through the pain I have, then it is worth it." And I say to you, the chance of hurting even one member of our community in your misguided attempt at political correctness will never be worth \$231 or even 231 million dollars to any of our charities.

Before you took that ad, were you not aware that it would lend an unwarranted legitimacy to the whole morally bankrupt idea of reparative therapy? What are you going to say when Focus on the Family starts trumpeting the fact "The gay community is behind us - see they even print our ads."

And finally what shall we expect to see in future issues? Ads by Kansas preacher Fred Phelps and his clan telling us that "Fags burn in Hell"? Recruitment ads for the KKK or the Aryan Nation? Just how much space will 30 pieces of silver buy on the pages of the *Bay Area Reporter* these days?

Paul Barwick  
San Francisco

## Open letter to the archbishop

[The following was sent to Archbishop William Levada.]

I was displeased that you, a Catholic Church leader, chose to contribute \$31,724 to the so-called Knight initiative. That initiative is a divisive and contemptible effort to ban the recognition of same-sex marriages in the state of California. Demeaning treatment of gays and lesbians by the Catholic Church is not unfamiliar. But your support of the Knight initiative, however, is particularly offensive; it attempts to limit the human and civil rights of same-sex couples who wish to marry.

You fear that same-sex marriages will become a threat to the sanctity of marriage. That fear seems ill-founded to me. Look at it this way, Archbishop Levada: love plus love equals more love in the universe, not less. To suggest otherwise is both unfair and arrogant.

Would Jesus have contributed \$31,724 to such a cause? Of course not. And how might he have responded to Pete Knight? Very easily by repeating his Christian mandate: Love one another. No question about being heterosexual, homosexual, bisexual or anything else. Just love one another. What is so difficult to understand about that?

The love for one another in a same-sex marriage is

next page ►

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## Mailstrom

◀ previous page

humanly and emotionally no different from the love for one another in a traditional marriage. Members of same-sex unions, like other married couples, espouse such family values as love, caring, nurturing, honesty, and fidelity, not because of their sexuality, but because they are human beings.

I wish there were some way you could recall that \$31,724 for your archdiocese. There are many ways you could put it to good use, rather than battering persons who love one another and want to sanctify that love through marriage.

Jerry Walker  
San Francisco

## HIV and depression

Several weeks ago I read an article in one of our major daily newspapers about a man who jumped off the Golden Gate Bridge. A tourist reported that just before the man jumped he said, "I can't live with this disease anymore." Over the years, I have heard that particular comment made many more times than I care to count by gay men with AIDS. Whether or not this man's disease was AIDS, he clearly suffered from another disease, acute depression.

The story affected me so much because I felt a solid connection to him. I am HIV-positive and have lived with depression for most of my life. It became acute when I tested positive almost 15 years ago. With therapy, medication, and good physical health, I am able to function well. However, depression can be every bit as debilitating as HIV and nearly as deadly.

Therefore, I was dismayed to see another National Depression Screening Day pass without mention in your fine publication. On this day many clinics and hospitals around the country conduct free screening for depression and help people get the treatment they need and deserve. I wonder how many HIV-positive gay men would have been helped had they read such an article.

Depression is so very common in the gay community but especially among gay men who are HIV-positive. It is a tragedy that there is virtually no outreach to raise awareness. For instance, studies have shown that the mix of HIV and depression can lead to earlier onset of illness and death by further weakening the immune system. People who have depression also suffer from low self-esteem and are more likely to engage in riskier behavior including alcohol or drug abuse and unsafe sex.

Our AIDS organizations and Department of Public Health should have an ongoing program of screening for depression administered along with their efforts to diagnosis and treat HIV. Yet, to my knowledge, no such combined effort is made. Let's hope this critical lapse in services to the HIV-positive queer community is addressed soon before any more of us are tempted by depression to make that trip out to the bridge.

Allen Carson  
San Francisco

[Editor's note: We ran an advance article on National Depression Screening Day in the September 30 issue, on page 25.]

## Whose god?

Insofar as it actually proves to reduce hate crimes against GLBT citizens, the Reverend Mel White and his band of 200 deserve respect and all due approbation for their effort with the unrevered-by-me Jerry Falwell. But a need to register a few caveats goads me.

One of these is, in common with other assimilation struggles, success in such efforts appear to depend on convincing Falwell and his flock that, aside from — well, a mere detail — GLBTs are just the same as they, i.e. white bread, tight-assed, cookie-cutter clean, middle class, mainstream Americans. I am not the same and do not aspire to be. I believe the same is true of many in our community, and long may the difference thrive.

To be "loved" by Falwell and his ilk is not a concession I would ever seek, and in fact the prospect makes my skin crawl. To think of what I would have to become to genuinely merit their "love" is to risk barfing. All I want from these people is recognition of my rights under our Constitution. The only love this involves is love of country. Such a love would, of course, require they desist in their agenda to establish their theocracy by subverting our democracy, thereby ushering in an era of persecution and interfaith holy wars.

It is a commonplace among the ecumenical minded to say, "After all, Christians, Jews, and Muslims all worship the same god." I've found little evidence to support this comfortable adage, and am far from convinced that Christians all worship the same god.

Stan Farwig  
Concord, CA

## Public has right to know

I've said it before and I'll say it again: The public

has a right to know. Why did the regents allow a hostile takeover of two public hospitals by the Stanford University trustees? Why did Joe Martin and Bill Kerr leave the post of CEO at the now-defunct US/Stanford Health Care? Why could none of these leaders of industry not keep this operation together for more than a year? When does the state file criminal charges against the architects of this debacle? And who was that masked man that I saw with a crow bar in front of Mt. Zion Hospital trying to pry the word "Stanford" off the side of the building?

The problem with the public's right to know is that we may not want to know the answers lest we faint.

Corey Menotti, AFSCME 829  
San Francisco Chapter President

## Thank you, Bears of San Francisco

I'm writing to thank the Bears of San Francisco, and the staff and patrons of the Lone Star Saloon, for helping us to raise some money to support our free classes for people living with AIDS or cancer, and their partners, friends, and families. The beverage benefit held on October 16 was a great success. And we all had a great time.

At Home Care Companions, we've always focused on one thing — teaching people the practical skills it takes to make living with a serious illness easier. Thanks to the BOSF and the Lone Star Saloon, our lives are a little easier now. For a small organization like ours, that means a lot.

Big bear hugs to everyone who helped. The caregivers we teach are grateful. So are we.

Kevin Murphy, Executive Director  
Home Care Companions

## Thank you, Shanti

I would like to thank Shanti for giving me the Testimony of Spirit Award, for a person living with HIV/AIDS, on October 21 at their 25th anniversary celebration at City Hall. It was truly an honor. I am celebrating my 25 years as a transsexual woman on November 24, and believe me, I won't have this big of a party.

In 1987, I became a volunteer at the ARIS Project in San Jose. And in February 1988, I took the Shanti model volunteer training. In the middle of the training I went to get my results of my HIV test; I was positive. I went in and told them that I had just found out that I was positive. I cried and they cried with me. The staff and volunteers gave me the support, compassion, but most of all they were there for me.

I'm glad that I was taking the volunteer training because it changed my life, the training taught me to take care of myself and to take care of others.

When I had my surgery in 1974, the straights didn't understand because I wasn't one of them, and the gay community didn't accept me because I wasn't gay anymore. I was an outcast again, but I wasn't going to give up. I became a volunteer because I wanted and needed to be needed. I turned around and took care of people without prejudice. And I did a good job at it. I treated people the way I would like to be treated. And, I wanted to make sure that there was a volunteer for me just in case I started to get sick.

The volunteer training has made a huge difference in my life. I think my life would have been totally different if I hadn't taken the training. Emotional support is very inexpensive. You can give it freely and it is a lifetime reward. Emotional support is very important to a person who is sick with HIV/AIDS, cancer, or any other disease. Whatever hours you can volunteer, you can make a difference in someone's life and the rewards are many.

Being Mexican-American and dark-skinned, growing up thinking I was gay and then finding out that I was transgender, and now I am HIV-positive: three strikes and you're out. A lot of times I really wanted to give up, but I know that my stay here is not over.

I want to thank Shanti for giving me this five minutes of fame and for giving me the dignity, recognition, and the respect that I have earned. I want to thank Charlie Garfield, the founder of Shanti, for truly changing my life.

To all who have given me the courage to go on, for pushing me, for listening to my problems no matter how bizarre they were, thank you. To Dee Dee Yubeta for being my friend for almost 40 years, and Eleanor Thompson manager of TND, where I live, for putting up with all the party fundraisers and all the sidewalk sales that I held outside our building, thank you.

And most of all to the 200 of my friends that have died of AIDS, rest in peace. The last two years have been the most positive and rewarding of my life.

I would also like to thank Project Open Hand for giving the food I needed to stay alive, and the AIDS Emergency Fund for helping with emergency funds when I needed them. I would also like to thank Pets are Wonderful Support for its help when my "kids" Sammy and Shadow needed it; my kids have given me unconditional love and support.

Happy 25th anniversary, Shanti.

Felicia A. Elizonda  
San Francisco



## POLITICS

# Ammiano's stunning finish shocks everyone

by Wayne Friday

Never mind how Supervisor **Tom Ammiano** happened to pull off one of the most stunning election campaigns seen anywhere. Some say it was California's version of the **Jesse Ventura** campaign for governor of Minnesota, a "none of the above" vote of you will, others say it was a "sneak attack" allowing the popular — if somewhat controversial — supervisor to avoid scrutiny during the campaign. Still others say it was well planned and not truly a last-minute decision of Ammiano's, and that he made the decision because he worried about propositions on the ballot that he championed, as Ammiano himself stated. However he did it, the last-minute write-in campaign that Ammiano and his supporters pulled off last week was nothing short of brilliant.

Now, however, he will have to get into the real fight; Ammiano no longer has the convenience of playing it safe by avoiding the big battle. Ammiano is nothing if not smart, but the big question now is how does he handle the really big league campaign. He has won the battle, now can he win the war?

Facing Mayor **Willie Brown**, the master of all political campaigns, is not going to be a picnic, and likely, no one knows that better than Ammiano. Ammiano has led a charmed life with San Franciscans and with the press, "underdogs" always get the treatment, but that all changes now. He will likely have to drop the campy "Walk a mile in my pumps" jokes and try to figure out a way to keep the self-promoting Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence from hogging the cameras every place he appears if he truly wants to win in areas of the city he needs in order to have a chance of carrying the day against Brown.

Don't for a minute count him out. I've known Ammiano for years and have a lot of respect for him; only three weeks ago I wrote that he reminds me very much of the late **Harvey Milk**, whom I knew well.

Last Thursday, as Ammiano's late surge of votes propelled him into next month's runoff, a reporter called me to talk about the upcoming Brown-Ammiano race in general and to "talk about Tom Ammiano." I told her that in the past I have always supported Ammiano both with my vote and with campaign contributions (though I'm clearly a Brown supporter this time) and if she was looking for someone to trash Ammiano she had called the wrong person.

The Brown-Ammiano contest clearly presents a problem for the city's gay and lesbian voters. While even most of Ammiano's supporters last week came from members of our community who freely admit that Brown has been one of our best friends and the most pro-gay big-city mayor in the country, the mayor also received a lot of support from this community. Nearly every elected and appointed gay and lesbian leader supported Brown and are expected to do so next month as well. Few who



Bill Fazio and Terence Hallinan will face off on December 14.

are familiar with Brown's career-long staunch support of the gay and lesbian community will likely turn their backs on him on December 14 and vote for Ammiano only because he is openly gay.

Still, there are those in the community who will find it difficult to pass on a chance to finally elect an openly gay mayor in a major American city. As one well-known gay activist who stopped

me on Castro Street last Saturday put it: "If not in San Francisco, Wayne, then where?"

Others, like political consultant and long-time gay activist **Robert Barnes**, worry about the message Ammiano's candi-

dacy sends. "Our community has a deep

commitment to building coalitions with progressive forces and people of color; here we have an African American mayor who has even presided over gay weddings at City Hall, the most pro-gay mayor in America who has always been there for us. What kind of a signal does it send when our community has someone this gay-friendly in office and just dumps him for another simply because that person is gay?" Barnes asked.

The race between now and December 14 is going to be very interesting.

## Politics and people

You think the runoff contest between District Attorney **Terence Hallinan** and former prosecutor **Bill Fazio** won't get nasty? Here's an indication of things to come. A throwaway sheet, the *Argonaut*, a publication that manages to surface from time to time, usually around Election Day, hit the streets just before the November 2 vote, touting support for Hallinan. It featured a photo of **Dan White**, the murderer of Milk and Mayor **George Moscone**, superimposed with a photo of Fazio. One side of the man's head featured White's photo, and the other side of the head was a photo of Fazio, both attached to the same body. I thought I'd seen it all in sleazy hit pieces, but this one has to be an all-time low. I knew White (he was a vicious, cold-blooded homophobic killer) and I know Fazio. To suggest that there's any resemblance of the two is disgusting, insulting, and possibly libelous. The *Argonaut's* pro-Hallinan hit piece is a new low, even in the rough and tumble world of San Francisco politics, and if Hallinan has any honor at all he will tell his supporters to

put a stop to it.

Milk, Brown, Senator **Dianne Feinstein**, and the late Representative **Phil Burton** were the San Franciscans who made the list of the 30 most important people of the 20th century in California politics compiled by the respected *California Journal*.

Sacramento Mayor **Joe Serna Jr.** died Sunday, November 7, of kidney cancer and complications from diabetes. He was 60. Serna was a longtime friend of the community and taught for many years at California State University, Sacramento. A special election will be held to determine his successor as Serna died with more than a year left on his term.

Presidential politics 101: **George W. Bush**, the leading GOP presidential contender, flunked a pop quiz on foreign heads of state last week when he couldn't even name the prime minister of India, among several other world leaders. One of the most persistent criticisms of the Texas governor is that he is not knowledgeable enough about foreign policy to lead the nation and he only fueled the charge by his ignorance of national leaders' names. Bush had previously referred to Greeks as Grecians, and East Timorese as East Timorians.

In national election contests last week Democrats gained a governorship (Mississippi), picked up two mayoralty posts previously held by the Republicans (Indianapolis and Columbus, Ohio), and held on to the top City Hall job in Philadelphia. Republicans gained control of the entire Virginia state government for the first time in history. Elsewhere, Maine voters endorsed the use of medical marijuana, joining California, Alaska, Oregon, Arizona, and Washington) and a referendum in Maine to ban abortions went down to defeat by 10 percentage points.

In North Carolina last Tuesday, **Gloria Faley** became the first openly lesbian candidate to be elected to any seat in that state when she won a seat on the Chapel Hill-Carrboro School Board.

Closer to home, in Solano County, the city of Vallejo elected its first-ever openly gay councilmember, attorney **Gary Cloutier**.

Finally, when is this city going to do something about its sorry Department of Elections and its embarrassing vote-counting process? Every election, there are excuses upon excuses, but they are still never ready for the next election. Whoever the next mayor is, he should make cleaning up the mess at the Department of Elections a top priority. ▼

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## Who's Barbara Jordan?

by David Bianco

November 7, 1972 (27 years ago this week): Barbara Jordan, a Texas state senator, is elected to a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives.

In her brief political career, Barbara Jordan repeatedly made history as an African American woman. After her death in 1996, she made history one last time—not for her race or gender, but because her long-term relationship with a woman became public knowledge.

Jordan was born in Houston's Fifth Ward, a segregated neighborhood, in 1936. Her family was actively involved in the local Baptist church, and when Jordan was a teenager, her father took up preaching. Jordan seemed to inherit her father's skill at public speaking. A tall, stout girl who was not traditionally "feminine" in appearance, Jordan learned early on to use her deep, rich voice to her advantage, making a name for herself in high school oratory competitions.

In the early 1950s, one of the nation's few African American female lawyers, Edith Spurlock Sampson, spoke at Jordan's high school and inspired the young woman to become a lawyer—a difficult career path at that time, when only one law school in Texas admitted blacks. But Jordan's father encouraged her and helped finance her education. After attending Texas State Uni-

versity, an all-black school, Jordan went north and got her law degree from Boston University. When she returned to Texas in 1959 and passed the bar exam, she was only the third African American woman to be licensed to practice law in that state.

Jordan's first clients came from her family's church, where her father encouraged her to pass out business cards. Wills and divorces for church members became the staple of her law practice, which she ran from her parents' dining room. But the routine soon bored her, and she turned to the local Democratic Party for more excitement.

Her first taste of politics came when she volunteered for the Kennedy-Johnson campaign in 1960. Though she started out by stuffing envelopes, Jordan was tapped to fill in at the last minute for a speaker who became ill. "I was startled with the impact I had on people," Jordan recalled of her first campaign speech, delivered in a church. "Those people were just as turned on and excited as if some of the head candidates had been there to talk about the issues." Recognizing her talents, local party leaders promptly placed her on the speaking circuit, where she came to the attention of many prominent Texas Democrats.

Jordan caught the political bug and decided to run for office herself two years later. She lost her bid for the Texas House of Representatives, then ran again in 1964 and was defeated a second time. During that campaign, some of Jordan's advisers warned

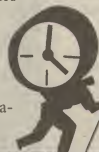
her about a potentially career-damaging predicament: She had gone on the stump with a close female "companion." Jordan willingly became more discreet, and her relationship with the woman ended soon after. In 1966, Jordan's run for a seat in the state Senate was successful, making her the first black woman ever to sit in that body.

Ironically, at the same time that she was learning to hide her lesbianism for career purposes, Jordan formed the most lasting relationship of her life. In the late 1960s, she accepted an invitation to go camping with female friends and on that trip met Nancy Earl, a white woman who worked as an educational psychol-

ogist. For almost 30 years, Earl was Jordan's closest companion and occasional speechwriter. But because of her political ambitions, Jordan always masked their relationship as a friendship, even after the two women bought five acres of land together near Austin and custom-built a house there, where they entertained like any married couple would.

In 1972, Jordan achieved one of her greatest ambitions when she won a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives and became the South's first black congresswoman. Jordan's powerful speaking style attracted national attention during the televised Watergate hearings of the House Judiciary Committee, which was bringing articles of impeachment against President Richard Nixon. "My faith in the Constitution is whole, it is complete, it is total," Jordan eloquently told the committee and the American public. "I am not going to ... be an idle spectator to the diminution, the subversion, the destruction of the Constitution."

By 1976, Jordan was so highly regarded that her name made the short list of possible running mates for Democratic presidential nominee Jimmy Carter. That year, she hit her political peak when she became the first black woman to deliver a keynote address at the Democratic National Convention.



## Past Out

## For further reading

Jordan, Barbara and Shelby Hearon. *Barbara Jordan: A Self-portrait* (Doubleday, 1979).

Moss, J. Jennings. "Barbara Jordan: The Other Life," *The Advocate* (March 5, 1996).

Rogers, Mary Beth. *Barbara Jordan: American Hero* (Bantam, 1998).

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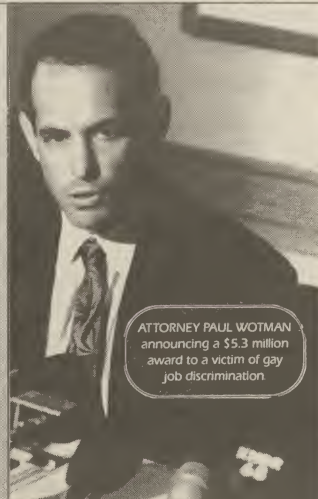
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# Bodfish may have invited own death

by Ed Walsh

**W**as transgender murder victim Emmon Bodfish so depressed that he solicited his own killing? Police appear to be focusing on that question as the investigation into his beating death enters its fifth month.

Last Thursday, November 4, Orinda police along with criminologists and Contra Costa County homicide detectives met for two hours to discuss the case. "We're looking at some information that shows that Emmon Bodfish was very depressed to the point of having suicidal tendencies," said homicide detective Mark Hale. "She felt that it was her time to leave this world. She talked about the pain in her life as being terminal in nature," added Hale who uses feminine pronouns when referring to Bodfish. Hale reiterated that although Bodfish believed he was suffering from a variety of physical ailments there was no evidence that Bodfish had any medical problems.

Hale told the *Bay Area Reporter* that investigators are seri-

ously considering the possibility Bodfish may have invited his own murder. "It [the investigation] points to that direction. It's a very real possibility. But there's not enough to hang our hat on."

Hale said that although investigators have not eliminated Bodfish's son, Max Wills, as a possible suspect, he doubts Wills killed Bodfish. Wills, 33, committed suicide in Santa Monica hours after being told that his mother was dead. Wills had been vacationing in Southern California when his mother was killed but detectives say they may never be able to account for all his time

there.

Hale speculated that if Wills were involved in Bodfish's murder at all, it may have been that he knew of a plan to kill Bodfish and purposely planned to be away when it happened.

The speculation that Bodfish invited his own murder begs the question of who could have done it and why. Police say they have no answers and are still open to all possibilities to explain Bodfish's mysterious murder.

Although investigators aren't revealing specifics of Bodfish's diary writings, some of Bodfish's friends say detectives told them

that Bodfish had fantasized in his journal about wanting the "blue demons" beaten out of his head. Bodfish, 56, died as the result of being beaten in the head with a blunt object.

Hale said investigators have not yet reached an impasse in the investigation. He added that investigative resources have been diverted to other cases but that he hoped detectives will be able to spend more time on the Bodfish case in coming weeks.

As the *B.A.R.* first reported last week, police unearthed a safe containing \$57,000 in gold and precious coins in Bodfish's home

on October 27. Hale said investigators examined the safe and its contents very carefully but had not gleaned any evidence from it that helped investigators advance the investigation.

The safe was first spotted by Bodfish's attorney and executor, Garrett Riegg, through an uncovered opening in Bodfish's closet floor. Hale said investigators believe Bodfish originally had used boxes or clothing to cover the opening. Riegg told the *B.A.R.* one of Bodfish's former caregivers may have uncovered the opening when she was cleaning out the closet. ▼

## Judge Walker on 'Exorcising Drugs' Tuesday in East Bay

by Terry Beswick

**U**nited States District Judge Vaughn R. Walker will give a talk entitled "Exorcising the Drugs Demon" this Tuesday, November 16, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at La Fogata Sports Grill at 2301 Willow Pass Road at Colfax in downtown Concord.

Walker previously practiced law with Pillsbury, Madison & Sutro in San Francisco. He became a federal judge in February 1990, after being nominated by former President George Bush.

Walker will take questions from the audience following his address. Sixth in an invitational series, the event is hosted by the governmental concerns committee of the Rainbow Community Center of Contra Costa County. According to organizers, the series is "designed to challenge, entertain, and inform by introducing divergent personalities with varied backgrounds, careers, and opinions to the greater community of Contra Costa County, and especially the rainbow community, for the purpose of fostering a heightened awareness of community."

Tickets are \$7.50 for prepaid guests, and \$10 at the door. Fresh Mexican hors d'oeuvres will be served. ▼

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# The importance of being Tom

by Nancy Boutilier

Dear Tom,  
It's perfect. In the same week that GOP presidential hopeful Steve Forbes told voters in New Hampshire that he would not hire a gay person who wanted to "make a political statement about a lifestyle," you, Tom, put together a little grassroots write-in campaign to remind America that not only is our lifestyle here to stay, but so too are our political statements.

Speaking of grassroots, how is my poopier scooper law these days?

I bet not everyone is as happy about your success as I am. Do you remember how my political friends responded when I threw my hat into the ring against Art Agnos in that race for the vacant state Assembly seat in 1976?

After making me the first openly gay commissioner by appointing me to the Board of Permit Appeals, Mayor Moscone then unappointed me for challenging their anointed candidate.

They all thought I hadn't paid my proper party dues. Jim Foster, who spoke for gay rights at the 1972 Democratic Convention, once likened the party to the church, "You know, Harvey, we're like the Catholic Church—we take converts, but we don't make them pope the same day."

Well, Tom, the rainbow smoke may yet rise from the chimney on your behalf.

My efforts in that race were

not just about getting me elected. No, I said at the time "This is to show that in a democracy the people should decide who their leaders are, not a bunch of old-boy politicians in a back room."

Agnos outspent me by more than two to one. The postage on his direct mail campaign cost more than my entire campaign.

How often do I have to say it? "You're not given power; you have to take it."

I challenged their status quo. "They want us to be happy little gays who vote for the people they want us to vote for," but I had my day as "the number-one queen in town." That spot is yours now, Tom.

"I'll tell you why I can't stand Harvey Milk," said David Goodstein, the editor of the *Advocate*. "He's goddamned crazy, that's why. He can't be trusted."

The headlines read "Harvey Milk vs. The Machine." That seemed to be a common theme throughout my political career. They all saw me as a wild card. They feared I'd be a laughing stock, that I'd embarrass them. Some felt that I was too idealistic, too queeny.

But there you are, second only to the incumbent, your name written in on thousands of ballots. No one knows how to predict your moves. You remain the comedian enough so that nobody ever knows what you'll say next. They may think you a class clown,

but you're a class act sporting a tiara to your own swearing in.

So, Tom, are you feeling a bit of a David to the Democratic Goliath these days?

Keep pounding the pavement, Tom. Win over one voter at a time. Show your political opponents that "they can't take us for granted, that we're always going to have something to say. Maybe not this time. But remember that every election we get closer. And you've got to keep working, getting people to vote, because if you do there's no way they can stop you."

Of course, it's a different town in so many ways. In the early days of Castro Camera, the Castro storefronts had some of the cheapest rents in the city. At first, we were unwelcome by many established businesses, so we flexed our economic power with our "gay buy gay" campaign.

Eventually, as our mecca took shape, the rents rose so beyond belief that many residents and merchants got priced out of the neighborhood. It was a time a skyrocketing real estate. I got myself in trouble for referring to landlords as "bloodsuckers." Now I hear that there are skyrocketing ATM fees too!

You were a teacher in those days, Tom. That was the career that I had hoped to pursue, but my dishonorable discharge from the Navy put teaching off-limits

to me. I know how much you care about education, Tom, and all across America today schools are banning books with gay themes or characters. Just last month a school dismantled a display that two teachers designed for Gay and Lesbian History Month.

If we can't have a couple of books and articles, a rainbow flag, and a bumper sticker on display in a public school, then we absolutely need to get ourselves into the mainstream media. Tom, if you wind up on the cover of *Time* or *Newsweek*, if reporters sensationalize this mayoral race, it will be a disservice to your career as a politician and visionary, but know that it will still serve an important function.

Though kids in San Francisco may already know of openly gay and lesbian politicians, there are still kids in places like Altoona, Pennsylvania. The world still needs to see gay men and lesbians in positions of power and respect. We still have to be twice as good as others to be seen as people of achievement, intelligence, and imagination. It remains a leap for many Americans to see us as civic leaders, to recognize us as heroes.

Remember the sign in my shop? That quote from Victor Hugo? "All the forces in the world are not so powerful as an idea whose time has come."

The idea of a gay vote was still just a theory back then. But that idea materialized on Election Day in 1977 for me. And no matter

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### Wednesday, November 17, 1999, HEAL San Francisco will present a talk by Kurt Van Quill, entitled An Examination of Mainstream and Dissident Views of HIV and AIDS

As some members of the community may be aware, a small minority of scientists continues to question the widely held belief that a retrovirus, HIV, is the cause of AIDS. Indeed, a review of the scientific literature on AIDS reveals that informed opinion on HIV varies widely. To date, researchers have proposed four competing views of HIV:

- \* The "deadly virus" theory of HIV. Since the discovery of HIV was announced in 1984, numerous researchers have argued that HIV is sufficient to cause AIDS and that virtually all HIV-infected individuals will develop the disease and die prematurely. When it became apparent that many people who tested positive remained healthy indefinitely, theorists proposed that the course of HIV infection involved a protracted, symptom-free "latency period" prior to the onset of AIDS.
- \* The "not-so-deadly virus" theory of HIV. Guided by the belief that AIDS is not an inevitable consequence of HIV infection, other researchers have proposed a revised view of HIV. While accepting the likelihood (or at least the strong possibility) that HIV plays a causal role in AIDS, they argue that other factors also play a significant and perhaps even necessary role in the development of the disease.
- \* The "harmless virus" theory of HIV. Some researchers disagree with both of these views, arguing that HIV is an innocuous retrovirus that plays no role in AIDS. This view holds that researchers have never demonstrated that HIV can harm human cells and, furthermore, that researchers have failed to demonstrate significant levels of active virus in HIV-positive individuals, even those suffering from AIDS.
- \* The view that HIV is a dubious virus. A final group of researchers remains skeptical of all three of these theories of HIV, arguing that the virus has never been properly isolated and thus proven to exist. These skeptics argue that HIV scientists have consistently neglected to obtain the minimum standard of evidence that is required in order to definitively demonstrate the existence of a new retrovirus.

Rarely have scientists differed so dramatically in their conclusions on matters of such consequence as HIV and AIDS. This disagreement among the experts poses quite a challenge for the conscientious layman who looks to them for advice in order to make well-informed health choices. Figuring out who to believe is no easy task.

Kurt will attempt to shed some cool, rational light on this often heated debate. In his discussion, he will provide an accessible, thoughtful analysis of mainstream and dissident views of HIV and AIDS. His goals are to introduce listeners to important scientific issues in the field of AIDS that remain largely unexamined in the mainstream media and to encourage principled, community-wide discussion of these important issues. Kurt Van Quill graduated from Harvard College in 1994, where he obtained a B.A. in Literature and completed premedical studies. He has been a keen observer of AIDS dissident science in recent years and is currently at work on a book examining the views of mainstream and dissident AIDS researchers. He has lived in San Francisco since 1995.

This talk will be held at 7:30 PM on Wednesday, November 17, 1999, at the Park Branch Library, 1833 Page Street in San Francisco. The event is free and open to the public.



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# Just happy to see me?

by Jane Warner  
and Ron McGlashan

**W**algreens, 498 Castro, November 3, 2 a.m.: A clerk saw a man who was lingering in the cosmetic aisle stick something down his pants. When the clerk demanded the item back, the suspect became angry and started to scream obscenities. Responding police found the man outside, and, during a pat search, discovered a \$13 Revlon compact in his crotch. Arrested for shoplifting was James Damour, 25.

### Family violence

*Fronting The Cafe, Market and Church, November 1, 8 p.m.:* Two men followed the victim down the sidewalk and one was yelling, "Fucking faggot - you don't deserve to be here." When the victim turned

and told the two to leave him alone, the second suspect hit him several times with his fist, screaming, "You're going to die now, bitch."

A beat officer, alerted to the situation by passerby, observed the assault and intervened. One of the suspects pushed her aside and ran eastbound on Market Street. An unidentified homeless man chased the suspect and helped in the arrest. The second suspect was apprehended by responding police.

Booked for assault and resisting arrest were Ronnie Walters, 26, and Glenn Davis, 46. Hate crimes enhancement charges were dropped when it was learned all three men were gay.

### Knuckle Sandwich

*Cafe du Nord, Market and Noe, November 1, 10:30 p.m.:* A female friend approached a woman in the cafe and for no apparent rea-

son hit her in the face and head area several times with a closed fist. The victim refused medical treatment. No suspect was found.

### All I want for Christmas

*Polk Street and Turk, November 5, 3:30 p.m.:* Police responded to a battery report at this location. A man told officers that he had been beaten by three suspects. During the beating, his false teeth fell from his mouth, and the suspects robbed him of both his money and teeth. A report was made so that the man could get his teeth replaced through social services.

### Free lunch

*Collingwood Recreation Center, 100 Collingwood, November 6, 4 p.m.:* Two juveniles ordered a medium pizza, 24 buffalo wings, and 12 cans of soda. When the delivery was made, the suspects took the goods and ran into the park. Responding police found the two suspects; one was booked for petty theft and an outstanding warrant, the other was released. ▼

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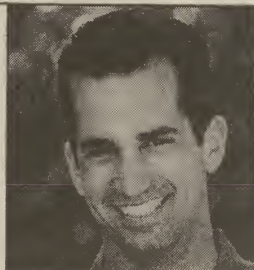


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## United Press International

**T**he convicted killer of gay Wyoming college student Matthew Shepard last Thursday, November 4 began serving two consecutive life terms in a deal approved by Shepard's parents.

Aaron James McKinney, 22, was convicted by a Laramie, Wyoming jury last Wednesday, November 3, in the savage pistol-whipping death of Shepard, who was tied to a wooden fence just outside Laramie and left to die. McKinney had faced a possible death sentence.

Dennis Shepard, Matthew's father, told reporters outside the Albany County Courthouse: "More than a year ago our son, Matthew, was murdered because he was gay.

He was a victim of a brutal crime motivated by hatred. The outcome of the trial will never bring Matthew back to us, but we believe justice was served today."

In the courtroom McKinney told Shepard's loved ones that he was "truly sorry," and that he is ashamed of what he did.

Jurors acquitted McKinney of premeditated murder but returned guilty verdicts for first-degree murder during a robbery and first-degree murder while committing a kidnapping.

The back-to-back life sentences are the same punishment dealt his partner, Russell Henderson, who entered a guilty plea earlier this year to avoid the death penalty.

The duo was charged with first-degree murder, kidnapping and aggravated robbery in the October 6,

1998, beating of Shepard, who died at a Fort Collins, Colorado, hospital several days after the attack.

The slaying triggered renewed calls for hate crimes legislation, an issue embraced by Dennis Shepard and his wife, Judy. "The Hate Crimes Prevention Act is currently before Congress and could become law if some of our nation's leaders would just see the wisdom of this common-sense legislation," Shepard said.

In a related matter, Kristen Price, McKinney's former girlfriend, pleaded guilty Monday, November 8, to a misdemeanor charge of interfering with a police officer. District Judge Jeffrey Donnell sentenced Price to 180 days in jail; she received 120 days of credit for time already served, and the remaining 60 days were suspended. ▼

## Life gotcha down?



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HIV THERAPY  
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someone just did!

Once Daily  
**SUSTIVA**<sup>TM</sup>  
efavirenz

**SUSTIVA<sup>TM</sup> is the first HIV drug approved to be taken once-a-day as part of your combination therapy.** Just take three 200 mg capsules together once daily, with or without food; high fat meals should be avoided. Your doctor may suggest taking SUSTIVA at bedtime to reduce any side effects you may experience.

**SUSTIVA, an NNRTI\*, must be used in combination with other HIV drugs.**

**SUSTIVA is tough on HIV.** It reduces the amount of virus in your blood and increases the number of CD4 cells. SUSTIVA can even be used in young children, 3 years of age or older. This is based on results from controlled clinical trials at 24 weeks. Presently, there are no results from controlled clinical trials showing the long-term effects of SUSTIVA.

**SUSTIVA has manageable side effects.** Most side effects are mild to moderate and can be managed. The most significant side effects associated with SUSTIVA therapy have been nervous system symptoms (dizziness, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating and/or abnormal dreams) and rash. These usually subside within the first two to four weeks of treatment. In a small number of patients, rash may be serious. Taking SUSTIVA at bedtime may help make nervous system symptoms less noticeable.

Now listed  
among preferred  
anti-HIV regimens in  
government guidelines.<sup>1</sup>

Pregnancy should be avoided in women receiving SUSTIVA because birth defects have been seen in primates dosed with SUSTIVA. Barrier contraception should always be used in combination with other methods of contraception.

**Talk to your doctor when you start taking SUSTIVA.** SUSTIVA may change the effect of other medicines (including ones for HIV). Always tell your doctor if you are taking, starting or changing any prescription or non-prescription medicine when taking SUSTIVA. Your doctor may change your medicines or change their dose. You should discuss your prior medical conditions (such as mental illness, substance abuse, hepatitis, etc.) with your doctor before taking SUSTIVA.

We know that coping with HIV is difficult enough. Your treatment doesn't have to be. Ask your doctor about SUSTIVA. For more important information see the next page for Patient Information about SUSTIVA.

**FOR HIV**

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\*NNRTI - non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor.

For more information on SUSTIVA, call 1-800-4PHARMA or visit our website at <http://www.sustiva.com>.  
For more information on the updated DHHS Guidelines, a PDF file of the guidelines is available at <http://www.hivatis.org>

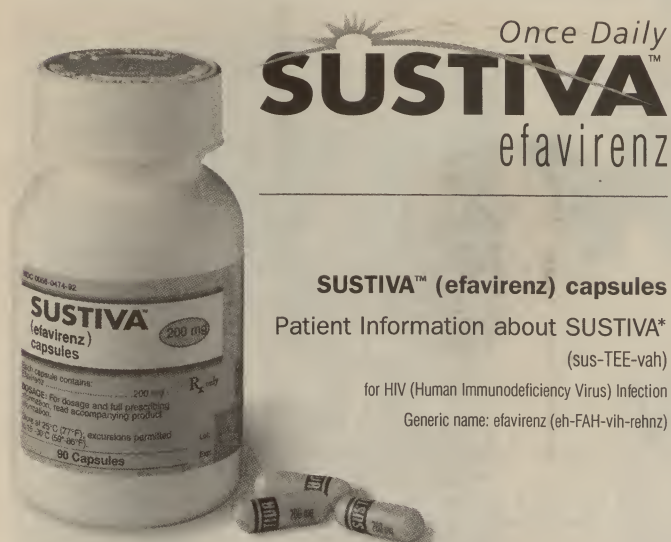
1. Guidelines for the Use of Antiretroviral Agents in HIV-Infected Adults and Adolescents. Panel on Clinical Practices for Treatment of HIV Infection. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), May 1999.

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**SUSTIVA™ (efavirenz) capsules**  
**Patient Information about SUSTIVA\***  
 (sus-TEE-vah)  
 for HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) Infection  
 Generic name: efavirenz (eh-FAH-vih-rehnz)

Please read this information before you start taking SUSTIVA. Read it again each time you refill your prescription, in case there is any new information. Don't treat this leaflet as your only source of information about SUSTIVA. Always discuss SUSTIVA with your doctor when you start taking your medicine and at every visit. You should remain under a doctor's care when using SUSTIVA. You should not change or stop treatment without first talking to your doctor.

#### What is SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA is a medicine used to help treat HIV, the virus that causes AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome). SUSTIVA is a type of HIV drug called a "non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor" (NNRTI).

#### How does SUSTIVA work?

SUSTIVA works by lowering the amount of HIV in the blood (called "viral load"). SUSTIVA must be taken with other anti-HIV medicines. When taken with other anti-HIV medicines, SUSTIVA has been shown to reduce viral load and increase the number of CD4 cells (a type of immune cell in blood). SUSTIVA may not have these effects in every patient.

#### Does SUSTIVA cure HIV or AIDS?

SUSTIVA is not a cure for HIV or AIDS. People taking SUSTIVA may still develop other infections associated with HIV. Because of this, it is very important that you remain under the care of your doctor.

#### Does SUSTIVA reduce the risk of passing HIV to others?

SUSTIVA has not been shown to reduce the risk of passing HIV to others. Continue to practice safe sex, and do not use or share dirty needles.

#### How should I take SUSTIVA?

- The dose of SUSTIVA for adults is 600 mg (three 200 mg capsules, taken together) once a day by mouth. The dose of SUSTIVA for children may be lower (see **Can children take SUSTIVA?**).
- Take SUSTIVA at the same time each day. You should take SUSTIVA at bedtime during the first few weeks or if you have side effects, such as dizziness or trouble concentrating (see **What are the possible side effects of SUSTIVA?**).
- Swallow SUSTIVA with water, juice, milk or soda. You may take SUSTIVA with or without meals; however, SUSTIVA should not be taken with a high fat meal.
- Do not miss a dose of SUSTIVA. If you forget to take SUSTIVA, take the missed dose right away. If you do miss a dose, do not double the next dose. Carry on with your regular dosing schedule. If you need help in planning the best times to take your medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- Take the exact amount of SUSTIVA your doctor prescribes. Never change the dose on your own. Do not stop this medicine unless your doctor tells you to stop.
- When your SUSTIVA supply starts to run low, get more from your doctor or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to SUSTIVA and become harder to treat.

#### Can children take SUSTIVA?

Yes, children who are able to swallow capsules can take SUSTIVA. Rash may be a serious problem in some children. Tell your child's doctor right away if you notice rash or any other side effects while your child is taking SUSTIVA. The dose of SUSTIVA for children may be lower than the dose for adults. Capsules containing lower doses of SUSTIVA are available. Your child's doctor will determine the right dose based on your child's weight.

#### Who should not take SUSTIVA?

Do not take SUSTIVA if you are allergic to SUSTIVA or any of its ingredients.

#### What other medical problems or conditions should I discuss with my doctor?

Talk to your doctor right away if you:

- Are pregnant or want to become pregnant
- Are breast-feeding
- Have problems with your liver, or have had hepatitis
- Start or change any medicine
- Have side effects while taking SUSTIVA (efavirenz)
- Have a history of mental illness, substance or alcohol abuse

#### What are the possible side effects of SUSTIVA?

Many patients have dizziness, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating, and/or unusual dreams a few hours after starting treatment with SUSTIVA. These feelings may be less noticeable if you take SUSTIVA at bedtime. They also tend to go away after you've taken the medicine for a few weeks. Rarely, patients have more serious side effects that may affect mood or ability to think clearly. These side effects occur more often in patients with a history of mental illness or substance abuse. Tell your doctor promptly if any of these side effects continue or if they bother you. There is the possibility that these symptoms may be more severe if SUSTIVA is used with alcohol or mood altering (street) drugs. You should avoid driving or operating machinery if you are having these side effects.

One of the most common side effects is rash. These rashes usually go away without any change in treatment. In a small number of patients, rash may be serious. If you develop a rash, call your doctor promptly.

Other common side effects include tiredness, upset stomach, vomiting, and diarrhea. However, this is not a complete list of side effects reported with SUSTIVA when taken with other anti-HIV drugs. Do not rely on this leaflet alone for information about side effects. Your doctor can discuss a more complete list of side effects with you.

Please contact your doctor immediately before stopping SUSTIVA because of side effects. Tell your doctor or other healthcare provider if you notice any side effects while taking SUSTIVA.

#### What about birth control, pregnancy, or breast-feeding?

Women should not become pregnant while taking SUSTIVA. Birth defects have been seen in animals treated with SUSTIVA. It is not known whether this could happen in humans. You should use a condom or diaphragm in addition to other methods of birth control while taking SUSTIVA. Inform your doctor immediately if you are pregnant. If you want to become pregnant, talk to your doctor. Do not take SUSTIVA if you are breast-feeding. Talk to your doctor if you are breast-feeding your baby.

#### Can I take other medicines with SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA may change the effect of other medicines (including ones for HIV). Your doctor may change your medicines or change their doses. For this reason, it is very important to:

- Let all your doctors and pharmacists know that you take SUSTIVA.
- Tell your doctors and pharmacists about all medicines you take. This includes those you buy over-the-counter and herbal or natural remedies.

Bring all your medicines when you see a doctor, or make a list of their names, how much you take, and how often you take them. This will give your doctor a complete picture of the medicines you use. Then he or she can decide the best approach for your situation.

The following medicines may cause serious and life-threatening side effects when taken with SUSTIVA. You should not take any of these medicines while taking SUSTIVA:\*\*

- Hismanal® (astemizole)
- Propulsid® (cisapride)
- Versed® (midazolam)
- Halcion® (triazolam)
- Ergot medications (for example, Wigraine® and Cafergot®)

The following medicines may need to be changed or have their dose changed when taken with SUSTIVA:\*\*

- Crixivan® (indinavir)
- Fortovase® (saquinavir)
- Biaxin® (clarithromycin)

#### How should I keep SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA is available as 50 mg, 100 mg, and 200 mg capsules.

Keep SUSTIVA at room temperature (77°F) in the bottle given to you by your pharmacist. The temperature can range from 59°-86°F.

Keep SUSTIVA out of the reach of children.

#### How can I learn more about SUSTIVA?

Talk to your doctor or other healthcare provider if you have questions about either SUSTIVA or HIV. For additional information you can visit the SUSTIVA website at <http://www.sustiva.com>.

**This medicine was prescribed for your particular condition. Do not use it for any other condition or give it to anybody else. Keep SUSTIVA out of the reach of children. If you suspect that more than the prescribed dose of this medicine has been taken, contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately.**

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Wilmington, DE 19880  
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## The first and only pill clinically proven to treat hair loss in men.

PROPECIA is a medical breakthrough—the first pill that effectively treats male pattern hair loss on the vertex (at top of head) and anterior mid-scalp area.

By all measures, the clinical results of PROPECIA in men are impressive:\*

- 83% maintained their hair based on hair count (vs. 28% with placebo).
- 66% had visible regrowth as rated by independent dermatologists (vs. 7% with placebo).
- 80% were rated as improved by clinical doctors (vs. 47% with placebo).
- Most men reported an increase in the amount of hair, a decrease in hair loss, and improvement in appearance.

\*Based on vertex studies at 24 months of men 18 to 41 with mild to moderate hair loss.

Scientists have recently discovered that men with male pattern hair loss have an increased level of DHT in their scalps. PROPECIA blocks the formation of DHT and, in this way, appears to interrupt a key factor in the development of inherited male pattern hair loss in men. Importantly, PROPECIA helps grow natural hair—not just “peach fuzz”—and is as convenient to take as a vitamin: one pill a day.

Only a doctor can determine if PROPECIA is right for you. PROPECIA is for **men only**. Further, women who are or may potentially be pregnant must not use PROPECIA and should not handle crushed or broken tablets because of the risk of a specific kind of birth defect. (See accompanying Patient Product Information for details.) PROPECIA tablets are coated and will prevent contact with the active ingredient during normal handling.

You may need to take PROPECIA daily for three months or more to see visible results. PROPECIA may not regrow all your hair. And if you stop using this product, you will gradually lose the hair you have gained. There is not sufficient evidence that PROPECIA works for recession at the temporal areas. If you haven't seen results after 12 months of using PROPECIA, further treatment is unlikely to be of benefit.

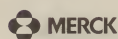
Like all prescription products, PROPECIA may cause side effects. A very small number of men experienced certain side effects, such as less desire for sex, difficulty in achieving an erection, and a decrease in the amount of semen. Each of these side effects occurred in less than 2% of men. These side effects were reversible and went away in men who stopped taking PROPECIA.

**So start talking to your doctor.** And stop thinking further hair loss is inevitable.

**CALL 1-888-806-3725** or visit our website at [www.propecia.com](http://www.propecia.com) today to receive detailed product information, including clinical “before and after” photographs.

Please read the next page for additional information about PROPECIA.

**Propecia™**  
(finasteride)  
**Helping make hair loss history™**





# Propecia™ (Finasteride) Tablets

**Patient Information about PROPECIA®**  
(Pro-pee-sha)  
Generic name: finasteride (fin-AS-tur-eyed)

## PROPECIA™ is for use by MEN ONLY.

Please read this information before you start taking PROPECIA. Also, read the information included with PROPECIA each time you renew your prescription, just in case anything has changed. Remember, this leaflet does not take the place of careful discussions with your doctor. You and your doctor should discuss PROPECIA when you start taking your medication and at regular checkups.

### What is PROPECIA used for?

PROPECIA is used for the treatment of male pattern hair loss on the vertex and the anterior mid-scalp area.

PROPECIA is for use by **MEN ONLY** and should **NOT** be used by women or children.

### What is male pattern hair loss?

Male pattern hair loss is a common condition in which men experience thinning of the hair on the scalp. Often, this results in a receding hairline and/or balding on the top of the head. These changes typically begin gradually in men in their 20s.

Doctors believe male pattern hair loss is due to heredity and is dependent on hormonal effects. Doctors refer to this type of hair loss as androgenetic alopecia.

### Results of clinical studies:

For 12 months, doctors studied over 1800 men aged 18 to 41 with mild to moderate amounts of ongoing hair loss. A 11 men, whether receiving PROPECIA or placebo (a pill containing no medication) were given a medicated shampoo (Neutrogena T/Gel\*\*\*\* Shampoo). Of these men, approximately 1200 with hair loss at the top of the head were studied for an additional 12 months. In general, men who took PROPECIA maintained or increased the number of visible scalp hairs and noticed improvement in their hair in the first year, with the effect maintained in the second year. Hair counts in men who did not take PROPECIA continued to decrease.

In one study, patients were questioned on the growth of body hair. PROPECIA did not appear to affect hair in places other than the scalp.

### Will PROPECIA work for me?

For most men, PROPECIA increases the number of scalp hairs, helping to fill in thin or balding areas of the scalp. Men taking PROPECIA noted a slowing of hair loss during two years of use. Although results will vary, generally you will not be able to grow back all of the hair you have lost. There is not sufficient evidence that PROPECIA works in the treatment of receding hairline in the temporal area on both sides of the head.

Male pattern hair loss occurs gradually over time. On average, healthy hair grows only about half an inch each month. Therefore, it will take time to see any effect.

You may need to take PROPECIA daily for three months or more before you see a benefit from taking PROPECIA. PROPECIA can only work over the long term if you continue taking it. If the drug has not worked for you in twelve months, further treatment is unlikely to be of benefit. If you stop taking PROPECIA, you will likely lose the hair you have gained within 12 months of stopping treatment. You should discuss this with your doctor.

### How should I take PROPECIA?

Follow your doctor's instructions.

- Take one tablet by mouth each day.
- You may take PROPECIA with or without food.
- If you forget to take PROPECIA, do not take an extra tablet. Just take the next tablet as usual.

PROPECIA will not work faster or better if you take it more than once a day.

### Who should NOT take PROPECIA?

- PROPECIA is for the treatment of male pattern hair loss in **MEN ONLY** and should not be taken by women or children.
- Anyone allergic to any of the ingredients.

### A warning about PROPECIA and pregnancy.

- **Women who are or may potentially be pregnant:**  
— must not use PROPECIA  
— should not handle crushed or broken tablets of PROPECIA.

If a woman who is pregnant with a male baby absorbs the active ingredient in PROPECIA, either by swallowing or through the skin, it may cause abnormalities of a male baby's sex organs. If a woman who is pregnant comes into contact with the active ingredient in PROPECIA, a doctor should be consulted. PROPECIA tablets are coated and will prevent contact with the active ingredient during normal handling, provided that the tablets are not broken or crushed.

### What are the possible side effects of PROPECIA?

Like all prescription products, PROPECIA may cause side effects. In clinical studies, side effects from PROPECIA were uncommon and did not affect most men. A small number of men experienced certain sexual side effects. These men reported one or more of the following: less desire for sex; difficulty in achieving an erection; and, a decrease in the amount of semen. Each of these side effects occurred in less than 2% of men. These side effects went away in men who stopped taking PROPECIA. They also disappeared in most men who continued taking PROPECIA.

In general use, the following have been reported infrequently: allergic reactions including rash, itching, hives and swelling of the lips and face; problems with ejaculation; breast tenderness and enlargement; and testicular pain.

Tell your doctor promptly about these or any other unusual side effects.

- PROPECIA can affect a blood test called PSA (Prostate-Specific Antigen) for the screening of prostate cancer. If you have a PSA test done, you should tell your doctor that you are taking PROPECIA.

### Storage and handling.

Keep PROPECIA in the original container and keep the container closed. Store it in a dry place at room temperature. PROPECIA tablets are coated and will prevent contact with the active ingredient during normal handling, provided that the tablets are not broken or crushed.

Do not give your PROPECIA tablets to anyone else. It has been prescribed only for you. Keep PROPECIA and all medications out of the reach of children.

THIS IS A SUMMARY OF INFORMATION ABOUT PROPECIA. IF AFTER READING THIS SUMMARY YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR ARE NOT SURE ABOUT ANYTHING, ASK YOUR DOCTOR.

1-800-830-7375, Monday through Friday, 8:30 A.M. TO 7:00 P.M. (ET).

**Propecia™**  
(Finasteride) Tablets

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**PROCRIT PROVIDED**

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**NO CURRENT OPPORTUNISTIC INFECTIONS**  
**PROCRIT TREATMENT STARTS IF/WHEN HGB GOES BELOW 12 g/dL**

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# Demo planned for women prisoners' rights

by Katie Szymanski

When prison officials at Chowchilla's Central California Women's Facility (CCWF) decided that a prisoner with HIV and hepatitis C was exposed to tuberculosis, they pumped her full of toxic TB medications without ever testing her for the disease, eventually discovering that she did not even have TB. The woman's liver failed, and after a long period of pain and suffering without care, she died last month.

That is one of many horror stories that groups like California Coalition for Women Prisoners, California Prison Focus, Women's Positive Legal Action Network, Prison Activist Resource Center, Prison Moratorium Project, and Out of Control – the lesbian committee to support women political prisoners – are trying to prevent from ever happening again. The organizations are holding a demonstration outside of CCWF and Val-

ley State Prison for Women – the two largest women's prisons in the world – this Saturday, November 13, to protest the murder and medical neglect of women in prison.

Getting access to adequate medical treatment is difficult in prison; if you have HIV, the process is nearly impossible. Women at CCWF and Valley State who test positive for HIV receive no counseling or follow-up care. They must stand in long lines to receive their medications, and if they are too sick to do so, they miss their dose for the day. And that is just the tip of the iceberg.

Medical care for prisoners is insufficient, to say the least. Even those in favor of standard incarceration cringed last week when a prison doctor at Valley State told *Nightline's* Ted Koppel that the women there enjoyed their multiple pap smears because it was their only physical contact with men.

Saturday's demonstration will

make the following demands: an end to the sexual abuse of women prisoners, adequate treatment for women with HIV and hepatitis, compassionate release for dying prisoners, and decent medical care for all women inside.

There have been 13 confirmed deaths in the last year at CCWF, five since September.

"Medical care is a basic human right, and just because a woman is a prisoner does not make her less valuable," said Suzanne Taviansky, a demonstration organizer. "They can't keep killing women and getting away with it." ▼

Car pools for the demonstration will be leaving the Bay Area at 8:30 a.m. In San Francisco, meet at the Safeway at Church and Market streets. In Oakland, meet at the MacArthur BART station. For more information, call (415) 695-9876.

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## Brown

◀ page 1

Republicans make up only about 15 percent of the city's 450,000 registered voters. But since Ammiano's surprising second-place finish last week, the mayor has begun campaigning in earnest and reaching out to groups that ordinarily might not support him.

"I was one of the 18 who did [vote to endorse Brown]," Michael German, a Republican Central Committee member and president of the Log Cabin Republicans in San Francisco, told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "I wavered over the last few days."

The openly gay German said there are four gay members on the Republican Central Committee; not all of them voted to endorse the mayor.

"I don't think Republicans have any business endorsing Democrats," Ted Turrell, another gay Republican Central Committee member, told the *B.A.R.*

German said that two things swayed his decision. The first were news reports Monday morning of Ammiano joining Sister Bernie Galvin in her "fast for the so-called homeless," German said.

"Then I heard Tom was registering so-called homeless," German said. "He's just too permissive – not progressive – permissive. That's not what this town needs right now."

German said the mayor "confirmed the impressions I formed" during Brown's 90-minute question and answer session with the committee. "He made a favorable impression."

During the meeting, Brown noted that it was 28 Republican Assembly members who helped elect him speaker in 1980. Questions asked of the mayor showed the committee's pro-business stance, but Brown defended his spending record, saying vital city services have been restored.

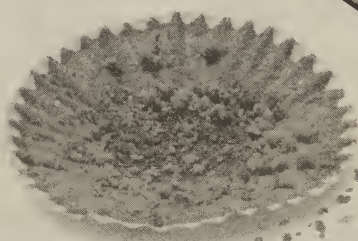
Turrell said that while he voted against the central committee endorsing Brown, he will vote for the mayor on December 14. "I didn't see him as friendly, I didn't see him as unfriendly."

"I detest Ammiano," Turrell told the *B.A.R.* "He's a fake and a phony." ▼

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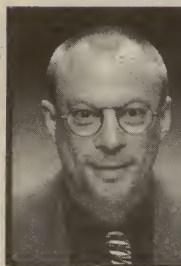
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#### INDICATIONS AND USAGE

**Marinol (dronabinol) is indicated for the treatment of:**  
1. anorexia associated with weight loss in patients with AIDS; and  
2. nausea and vomiting associated with cancer chemotherapy in patients who have failed to respond adequately to conventional antiemetic treatments.

**CONTRAINDICATIONS**  
Marinol (dronabinol) is contraindicated in any patient who has a history of hypersensitivity to any cannabinoid or sesame oil.

**WARNINGS**  
Patients receiving treatment with Marinol should be specifically warned not to drive, operate machinery, or engage in any hazardous activity until it is established that they are able to tolerate the drug and to perform such tasks safely.

**PRECAUTIONS**  
General: The risk/benefit ratio of Marinol (dronabinol) use should be carefully evaluated in patients with the following medical conditions because of individual variation in response and tolerance to the effects of Marinol.

Marinol should be used with caution in patients with cardiac disorders because of occasional hypotension, possible hypertension, syncope, or tachycardia (see CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY).  
Marinol should be used with caution in patients with a history of substance abuse, including alcohol abuse or dependence, because they may be more prone to abuse Marinol as well. Multiple substance abuse is common and marijuana, which contains the same active compound, is a frequently abused substance.

Marinol should be used with caution and careful psychiatric monitoring in patients with mania, depression, or schizophrenia because Marinol may exacerbate these illnesses.

Marinol should be used with caution in patients receiving concomitant therapy with sedatives, hypnotics or other psychoactive drugs because of the potential for additive or synergistic CNS effects.

Marinol should be used with caution in pregnant patients, nursing mothers, or pediatric patients because it has not been studied in these patient populations.

Marinol should be used with caution for treatment of anorexia and weight loss in elderly patients with AIDS because they may be more sensitive to the psychoactive effects and because its use in these patients has not been studied.

**Information for Patients:** Patients receiving treatment with Marinol (dronabinol) should be alerted to the potential for additive central nervous system depression if Marinol is used concomitantly with alcohol or other CNS depressants such as benzodiazepines and barbiturates.

Patients receiving treatment with Marinol should be specifically warned not to drive, operate machinery, or engage in any hazardous activity until it is established that they are able to tolerate the drug and to perform such tasks safely.

Patients using Marinol should be advised of possible changes in mood and other adverse behavioral effects of the drug so as to avoid panic in the event of Marinol and following dosage adjustments.

**Drug Interactions:** In studies involving patients with AIDS and/or cancer, Marinol (dronabinol) has been co-administered with a variety of medications (e.g., cytotoxic agents, anti-infective agents, sedatives, or opioid analgesics) without resulting in any clinically significant drug-drug interactions. Although no drug-drug interactions were discovered during the clinical trials of Marinol, cannabinoids may interact with other medications through both metabolic and pharmacodynamic mechanisms. Dronabinol is highly protein bound to plasma proteins, and therefore, might displace other protein-bound drugs. Although this displacement has not been confirmed in vivo, practitioners should monitor patients for a change in dosage requirements when administering dronabinol to patients receiving other highly protein-bound drugs. Published reports of drug-drug interactions involving cannabinoids are summarized in the following table.

CONCOMITANT DRUG	CLINICAL EFFECT(S)
Amphetamines, cocaine, other sympathomimetic agents	Additive hypertension, tachycardia, possibly cardiotoxicity
Atropine, scopolamine, anticholinergics, other anticholinergic agents	Additive or super-additive tachycardia, drowsiness
Amtripyline, amoxapine, desipramine, other tricyclic antidepressants	Additive tachycardia, hypertension, drowsiness
Barbiturates, benzodiazepines, ethanol, lithium, opioids, buspirone, anticholinergics, muscle relaxants, other CNS depressants	Additive drowsiness and CNS depression
Disulfiram	A reversible hypotensive reaction was reported in a 25 y/o man who smoked marijuana, confirmed by dechallenge and rechallenge.
Fluoxetine	A 21 y/o female with depression and bulimia receiving 20 mg/day fluoxetine 4 times daily became hypotensive after smoking marijuana; symptoms resolved after 4 days.
Antipyrene, barbiturates	Decreased clearance of these agents, presumably via competitive inhibition of metabolism.
Theophylline	Increased theophylline metabolism reported with smoking of marijuana; effect similar to that following smoking tobacco.

**Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility:** Carcinogenicity studies have not been performed with dronabinol. Mutagenicity testing of dronabinol was negative in an Ames test. In a long-term study (17 days) in rats, oral administration of dronabinol at doses of 30 to 150 mg/m<sup>2</sup> (equivalent to 0.3 to 1.5 times maximum recommended human dose (MRHD) of 90 mg/m<sup>2</sup>/day) in cancer patients or 2 to 10 times MRHD of 15 mg/m<sup>2</sup>/day in AIDS patients, reduced ventral prostatic, seminal vesicle and epididymal weights and caused a decrease in seminal fluid volume. Decreases in spermatogenesis, number of developing germ cells, and number of Leydig cells in the testes were also observed. However, sperm count, mating success and testicular levels were not affected. The significance of these animal findings in humans is not known.

**Pregnancy:** Pregnancy Category C. Reproduction studies with dronabinol have been performed in mice at 15 to 450 mg/m<sup>2</sup> (equivalent to 0.2 to 5 times maximum recommended human dose (MRHD) of 90 mg/m<sup>2</sup>/day) in cancer patients or 1 to 30 times MRHD of 15 mg/m<sup>2</sup>/day in AIDS patients, and in rats at 74 to 295 mg/m<sup>2</sup> (equivalent to 0.8 to 3 times MRHD of 90 mg/m<sup>2</sup> in cancer patients or 5 to 20 times MRHD of 15 mg/m<sup>2</sup>/day in AIDS patients). These studies have revealed no evidence of teratogenicity due to dronabinol. At these dosages in mice and rats, dronabinol decreased maternal weight gain and number of viable pups and increased fetal mortality and early resorptions. Such effects were dose dependent and less apparent at lower doses which produced less maternal toxicity. There are no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women. Dronabinol should be used only if the potential benefit justifies the potential risk to the fetus.

**Nursing Mothers:** Use of Marinol is not recommended in nursing mothers since, in addition to the secretion of HIV virus in breast milk, dronabinol is concentrated in and secreted in human breast milk and is absorbed by the nursing baby.

#### ADVERSE REACTIONS

Adverse experiences information summarized in the tables below was derived from well-controlled clinical trials conducted in the US and US territories involving 474 patients exposed to Marinol (dronabinol). Studies of AIDS-related weight loss included 157 patients receiving dronabinol at a dose of 2.5 mg twice daily and 67 receiving placebo. Studies of different durations were combined by considering the first occurrence of events during the first 28 days. Studies of nausea and vomiting related to cancer chemotherapy included 317 patients receiving dronabinol and 65 receiving placebo.

A cannabinoid dose-related "high" (easy laughing, elation and heightened awareness) has been reported by

## Ammiano

◀ page 1

Bayview-Hunters Point.

"In two weeks, Tom got his vote out," said AIDS activist Hank Wilson, who helped recruit Ammiano into the campaign. "Brown, in four years, didn't."

According to Ammiano campaign officials, over 3,000 volunteers are now actively working to register new voters before the November 15 deadline,

focusing on young voters in working class neighborhoods — a group that turned out in droves for Ammiano on November 2. Following this effort, the largely volunteer campaign will focus on educating voters on the issues, walking precincts, tabling on street corners, and phone-banking.

"The momentum we built up over the last few weeks will sustain us," said Ammiano.

Asked by a reporter whether he thought the media would focus on his being the "first gay mayor of a

major U.S. city," if elected, the former schoolteacher and stand-up comic was quick to correct him. "Openly," he said. ▼

The first mayoral debate of the runoff election, sponsored by the Planning Association for the Richmond, will be held Tuesday, November 16, from 8:30-9:30 p.m. at the Lincoln Park Golf Course Clubhouse, off 34th Avenue at Clement St.

## Library vandal

◀ page 1

somebody who has really got an agenda and is pretty savvy about carrying it out."

Only circulating titles, for instance, have been damaged. Nothing in the Hornel reference section has been touched. Figure in the rate at which these books are being vandalized, often with multiple copies of the same title damaged, and the fact that none of these books are missing. It starts to add up.

Damaged books include Jonathan Katz's *Gay American*

History and books by Michaelangelo Signorile, but Van Buskirk said the vandalism happens across the board, to books by gays and lesbians alike.

In addition to hanging the signs, Van Buskirk has asked library volunteers from the Hornel Center to monitor the affected area, which is on the other side of the room.

Supervisor Tom Ammiano said one solution could be to recruit volunteers from the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) communities.

"We need to increase security, and I'm sure that there are people in our community who would be

happy to volunteer to do that," Ammiano told the B.A.R. "I'd be happy to talk to the library staff about ways to stop the vandalism."

Ammiano's former aide, Michael Housh, now secretary of the Library Commission, said he was informed on Tuesday of the ongoing vandalism, and that the commission is often the last resort to combating such problems.

"When it becomes a severe crisis that the library cannot manage, we are informed that we may be needed," Housh told the B.A.R. "They wanted to keep it low-key, but nothing they tried had worked. Right now we will wait and take the lead from the staff, and if they need us, we will make recommendations about further security."

Van Buskirk said that "another little project" was also targeting gay literature, where people are taking stacks of gay and lesbian related books and moving them elsewhere in the library.

"That too prevents somebody from finding it," he said.

For now, Van Buskirk will concentrate on ending the vandalism, which will probably require something in addition to the signs and alert volunteers.

"We have tried," said Van Buskirk, "but we cannot get it to stop." ▼

## Pride

◀ page 2

tribute the organization's faults to "evil" but rather, to "carelessness."

"Calvin didn't want older members' experiences to cloud his vision," said Christopher. "But now here he is with a big mess because he didn't know about our traditions or policies."

Gipson acknowledged that as these problems have come to his attention, he has been "surprised."

"As a number of people start coming forward, we will try to do the responsible thing and correct the problems," Gipson told the B.A.R.

Gipson also said that Baker and a few others who have raised objections did not even attend Pride Committee meetings last year.

"It's difficult to have known about these issues when these people weren't at meetings," he said. "We welcome their voices, but would like to get on with planning the Pride 2000 event."

Meanwhile, Pride has wrapped up its membership drive, launched after the election was invalidated as a way to clarify its roster and invite new blood. After soliciting ideas from the community for a theme, the board came up with its own idea — "It's About Freedom" — and now is looking for ideas from the public for a logo.

The membership drive resulted in 93 new members, according to Gipson, bringing the group's total near 300. The election will be re-held in January so that new and newly-clarified members will have a chance to cast their votes. ▼

patients receiving Marinol in both the antiemetic (24%) and the lower dose appetite stimulant clinical trials (8%) (see CLINICAL TRIALS).

The most frequently reported adverse experiences in patients with AIDS during placebo-controlled clinical trials involved the CNS and were reported by 33% of patients receiving Marinol. About 25% of patients reported a minor CNS adverse event during the first 2 weeks and about 4% reported such an event each week for the next 6 weeks thereafter.

#### PROBABLY CAUSALLY RELATED. Incidence greater than 1%.

Rates derived from clinical trials in AIDS-related anorexia (N=157) and chemotherapy-related nausea (N=317). Rates were generally higher in the anti-emetic use (given in parentheses).

##### Body as a whole:

Cardiovascular: Palpitations, tachycardia, vasodilation/flush facial.  
Digestive: Abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting.  
Nervous system (Anxiety): Anxiety/nervousness, (staxia), confusion, depersonalization, dizziness, euphoria, (hallucination), paranoid reaction, somnolence, thinking abnormal.

\*Incidence of events 3% to 10%.

#### PROBABLY CAUSALLY RELATED. Incidence less than 1%.

Event rates derived from clinical trials in AIDS-related anorexia (N=157) and chemotherapy-related nausea (N=317).

Cardiovascular: Conjunctivitis, hypotension.  
Digestive: Diarrhea, fecal incontinence.  
Musculoskeletal: Myalgias.  
Nervous system: Depression, nightmares, speech difficulties, tinnitus.  
Skin and Appendages: Flushing.  
Special senses: Vision difficulties.

\*Incidence of events 0.3% to 1%.

#### CAUSAL RELATIONSHIP UNKNOWN. Incidence less than 1%.

The clinical significance of the association of these events with Marinol treatment is unknown, but they are reported as alarming information for the clinician.

##### Body as a whole:

Chills, headache, malaise.  
Digestive: Anorexia, hepatic enzyme elevation.  
Respiratory: Cough, rhinitis, sinusitis.  
Skin and Appendages: Sweating.

#### DRUG ABUSE AND DEPENDENCE

Marinol (dronabinol) is one of the psychoactive compounds present in cannabis, and is abusable and controlled (Schedule III (CIII)) under the Controlled Substances Act. Both psychological and physiological dependence have been noted in healthy individuals receiving dronabinol, but addiction is uncommon and has only been seen after prolonged high dose administration.

Chronic abuse of cannabis has been associated with decrements in motivation, cognition, judgment, and perception. The etiology of these impairments is unknown, but may be associated with the complex process of addiction rather than an isolated effect of the drug. No such decrements in psychological, social or neurological status have been associated with the administration of Marinol for therapeutic purposes.

In an open-label study in patients with AIDS who received Marinol for up to five months, no abuse, diversion or systematic change in personality or social functioning were observed despite the inclusion of a substantial number of patients with a past history of drug abuse.

An abstinence syndrome has been reported after abrupt discontinuation of dronabinol in volunteers receiving dosages of 210 mg/day for 12 to 16 consecutive days. Within 12 hours after discontinuation, these volunteers manifested symptoms such as irritability, insomnia, and restlessness. By approximately 24 hours post-dronabinol discontinuation, withdrawal symptoms intensified to include "hot flashes," sweating, rhinorrhea, loose stools, hiccups and anorexia.

These withdrawal symptoms gradually dissipated over the next 48 hours. Electroencephalographic changes consistent with the effects of drug withdrawal (hyperexcitability) were recorded in patients after abrupt discontinuation. Patients also complained of disturbed sleep for several weeks after discontinuing therapy with high dosages of dronabinol.

#### OVERDOSAGE

Signs and symptoms following Mild to Moderate dronabinol intoxication include drowsiness, euphoria, heightened sensory awareness, altered time perception, reddened conjunctiva, dry mouth and tachycardia, following Moderate to Severe intoxication include memory impairment, depersonalization, mood alteration, urinary retention, and reduced bowel motility, and following Severe intoxication included decreased motor coordination, lethargy, slurred speech, and postural hypotension. Aggravated patients may experience panic reactions and seizures may occur in patients with existing seizure disorders.

The estimated lethal human dose of intravenous dronabinol is 30 mg/kg (2100 mg/70kg). Significant CNS symptoms in antiemetic studies followed oral doses of 0.4 mg/kg (28 mg/70 kg) of Marinol.

**Management:** A potentially serious oral ingestion, if recent, should be managed with gut decontamination. In unconscious patients with a secure airway, instill activated charcoal (30 to 100 g in adults, 1 to 2 g/kg in infants) via a nasogastric tube. A saline cathartic or sorbitol may be added to the first dose of activated charcoal. Patients experiencing depressive, hallucinatory or psychotic reactions should be placed in a quiet area and offered reassurance. Benzodiazepines (5 to 10 mg diazepam po) may be used for treatment of extreme agitation. Hypotension usually responds to Trendelenburg position and IV fluids. Pressors are rarely required.

**Appetite stimulation:** Initially, 2.5 mg Marinol (dronabinol) should be administered orally twice daily (b.i.d.), before lunch and supper. For patients unable to tolerate this 5 mg/day dosage of Marinol, the dosage can be reduced to 2.5 mg/day, administered as a single dose in the evening or at bedtime. If clinically indicated and in the absence of significant adverse effects, the dosage may be gradually increased to a maximum of 20 mg/day Marinol, administered in divided oral doses. Caution should be exercised in escalating the dosage of Marinol because of the increased frequency of dose-related adverse experiences at higher dosages (see PRECAUTIONS).

Antiemetic: Marinol is best administered at an initial dose of 5 mg/m<sup>2</sup>, given 1 to 3 hours prior to the administration of chemotherapy, then every 2 to 4 hours after chemotherapy is given, for a total of 4 to 6 doses/day. Should the 5 mg/m<sup>2</sup> dose prove to be ineffective, and in the absence of significant side effects, the dose may be escalated by 2.5 mg/m<sup>2</sup> increments to a maximum of 15 mg/m<sup>2</sup> per dose. Caution should be exercised in dose escalation, however, as the incidence of disturbing psychiatric symptoms increases significantly at maximum dose (see PRECAUTIONS).

#### SAFETY AND HANDLING

Marinol (dronabinol) should be packaged in a well-closed container and stored in a cool environment between 8° and 15°C (46° and 59°F). Protect from freezing. No particular hazard to health care workers handling the capsules has been identified.

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Please read this information carefully before taking VIRACEPT. Also, please read this leaflet each time you renew the prescription, just in case anything has changed. This is a summary and not a replacement for a careful discussion with your doctor. You and your doctor should discuss VIRACEPT when you start taking this medication and at regular checkups. You should remain under a doctor's care when taking VIRACEPT and should not change or stop treatment without first talking with your doctor.

#### WHAT IS VIRACEPT AND HOW DOES IT WORK?

VIRACEPT is used in the treatment of people with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection. Infection with HIV leads to the destruction of CD4 T cells, which are important to the immune system. After a large number of CD4 cells have been destroyed, the infected person develops acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).

VIRACEPT works by blocking HIV protease (a protein-cutting enzyme), which is required for HIV to multiply. VIRACEPT has been shown to significantly reduce the amount of HIV in the blood. You should be aware, however, that the effect of VIRACEPT on HIV in the blood has not been correlated with long-term health benefits. Patients who took VIRACEPT also had significant increases in their CD4 cell count.

VIRACEPT is usually taken together with other antiretroviral drugs such as Retrovir® (zidovudine, AZT), Epivir® (lamivudine, 3TC), or Zerit® (stavudine, d4T). Taking VIRACEPT in combination with other antiretroviral drugs reduces the amount of HIV in the body (viral load) and raises CD4 counts.

VIRACEPT may be taken by adults, adolescents, and children 2 years of age or older. Studies in infants younger than 2 years of age are now taking place.

#### DOES VIRACEPT CURE HIV OR AIDS?

VIRACEPT is not a cure for HIV infection or AIDS. The long-term effects of VIRACEPT are not known at this time. People taking VIRACEPT may still develop opportunistic infections or other conditions associated with HIV infection. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, *Mycobacterium avium* complex (MAC) infections, and Kaposi's sarcoma.

It is not known whether VIRACEPT will help you live longer or reduce the number of infections or other illnesses that may occur.

There is no proof that VIRACEPT can reduce the risk of transmitting HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

#### WHO SHOULD OR SHOULD NOT TAKE VIRACEPT?

Together with your doctor, you need to decide whether VIRACEPT is appropriate for you. In making your decision, the following should be considered:

**Allergies:** If you have had a serious allergic reaction to VIRACEPT, you must not take VIRACEPT. You should also inform your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist of any known allergies to substances such as other medicines, foods, preservatives, or dyes.

**If you are pregnant:** The effects of VIRACEPT on pregnant women or their unborn babies are not known. If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant, you should tell your doctor before taking VIRACEPT.

**If you are breast-feeding:** You should discuss with your doctor the best way to feed your baby. You should be aware that if your baby does not already have HIV, there is a chance that it can be transmitted through breast-feeding. **Women should not breast-feed if they have HIV.**

**Children:** VIRACEPT is available for the treatment of children 2 through 13 years of age with HIV. There is a powder form of VIRACEPT that can be mixed with milk, baby formula, or foods like pudding. Instructions on how to take VIRACEPT powder can be found in a later section that discusses how VIRACEPT Oral Powder should be prepared.

**If you have liver disease:** VIRACEPT has not been studied in people with liver disease. If you have liver disease, you should tell your doctor before taking VIRACEPT.

**Other medical problems:** Certain medical problems may affect the use of VIRACEPT. Some people taking protease inhibitors have developed new or more serious diabetes or high blood sugar. Some people with hemophilia have had increased bleeding. It is not known whether the protease inhibitors caused these problems. Be sure to tell your doctor if you have hemophilia types A and B, diabetes mellitus, or an increase in thirst and/or frequent urination.

#### CAN VIRACEPT BE TAKEN WITH OTHER MEDICATIONS?

VIRACEPT may interact with other drugs, including those you take without a prescription. You must discuss with your doctor any drugs that you are taking or are planning to take before you take VIRACEPT.

#### Drugs you should not take with VIRACEPT:

- Seldane® (terfenadine, for allergies)
- Hismanal® (astemizole, for allergies)
- Propulsid® (cisapride, for heartburn)
- Cordarone® (amiodarone, for irregular heartbeat)
- Quinidine (for irregular heartbeat), also known as Quinaglut®, Cardioquin®, Quinidex®, and others
- Ergot derivatives (Cafergot® and others, for migraine headache)
- Halcion® (triazolam)
- Versed® (midazolam)

Taking the above drugs with VIRACEPT may cause serious and/or life-threatening adverse events.

- Rifampin (for tuberculosis), also known as Rimactane®, Rifadin®, Rifater®, or Rifamate®

This drug reduces blood levels of VIRACEPT.

#### Dose reduction required if you take VIRACEPT with:

Mycobutin® (rifabutin, for MAC); you will need to take a lower dose of Mycobutin.

#### A change of therapy should be considered if you are taking VIRACEPT with:

- Phenobarbital
- Phenytoin (Dilantin® and others)
- Carbamazepine (Tegretol® and others)

These agents may reduce the amount of VIRACEPT in your blood and make it less effective.

Oral contraceptives ("the pill")

If you are taking the pill to prevent pregnancy, you should use a different type of contraception since VIRACEPT may reduce the effectiveness of oral contraceptives.

#### HOW SHOULD VIRACEPT BE TAKEN WITH OTHER ANTI-HIV DRUGS?

Taking VIRACEPT together with other anti-HIV drugs increases their ability to fight the virus. It also reduces the opportunity for resistant viruses to grow. Based on your history of taking other anti-HIV medicine, your doctor will direct you on how to take VIRACEPT and other anti-HIV medicines. These drugs should be taken in a certain order or at specific times. This will depend on how many times a day each medicine should be taken. It will also depend on whether it should be taken with or without food.

**Nucleoside analogues:** No drug interaction problems were seen when VIRACEPT was given with:

- Retrovir (zidovudine, AZT)
- Epivir (lamivudine, 3TC)
- Zerit (stavudine, d4T)
- Videx® (didanosine, ddl)

**If you are taking both Videx (ddl) and VIRACEPT:** Videx should be taken without food, on an empty stomach. Therefore, you should take VIRACEPT with food one hour after or more than two hours before you take Videx.

#### Nonnucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NNRTIs):

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:

- Viramune® (nevirapine)

The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood may be reduced. Studies are now taking place to learn about the safety of combining VIRACEPT with Viramune.

Other NNRTIs

VIRACEPT has not been studied with other NNRTIs.

#### Other protease inhibitors:

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:

- Crixivan® (indinavir)
- The amount of both drugs in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.
- Norvir™ (ritonavir)
- The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.
- Invirase® (saquinavir)
- The amount of saquinavir in your blood may be increased. If used in combination with saquinavir hard gelatin capsules at 600 mg three times daily, no dose adjustments are needed. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

#### WHAT ARE THE SIDE EFFECTS OF VIRACEPT?

Like all medicines, VIRACEPT can cause side effects. Most of the side effects experienced with VIRACEPT have been mild to moderate. Diarrhea is the most common side effect in people taking VIRACEPT, and most adult patients had at least mild diarrhea at some point during treatment. In clinical studies, about 20% of patients receiving VIRACEPT 750 mg (three tablets) three times daily had four or more loose stools a day. In most cases, diarrhea can be controlled using antidiarrheal medicines, such as Imodium® A-D (loperamide) and others, which are available without a prescription.

Other side effects that occurred in 2% or more of patients receiving VIRACEPT include abdominal pain, asthenia, nausea, flatulence, and rash.

There were other side effects noted in clinical studies that occurred in less than 2% of patients receiving VIRACEPT. However, these side effects may have been due to other drugs that patients were taking or to the illness itself. Except for diarrhea, there were not many differences in side effects in patients who took VIRACEPT along with other drugs compared with those who took only the other drugs. For a complete list of side effects, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

#### HOW SHOULD I TAKE VIRACEPT?

VIRACEPT is available only with your doctor's prescription. The light blue VIRACEPT Tablets should be taken three times a day. VIRACEPT should always be taken with a meal or a light snack. You do not have to take VIRACEPT exactly every 8 hours. Instead, you can take it at normal times when you are eating.

**Take VIRACEPT exactly as directed by your doctor.** Do not increase or decrease any dose or the number of doses per day. Also, take this medicine for the exact period of time that your doctor has instructed. **Do not stop taking VIRACEPT without first consulting with your doctor, even if you are feeling better.**

Only take medicine that has been prescribed specifically for you. Do not give VIRACEPT to others or take medicine prescribed for someone else.

The dosing of VIRACEPT may be different for you than for other patients. **Follow the directions from your doctor, exactly as written on the label.** The amount of VIRACEPT in the blood should remain somewhat consistent over time. Missing doses will cause the concentration of VIRACEPT to decrease; therefore, you should not miss any doses. However, if you miss a dose, you should take the dose as soon as possible and then take your next scheduled dose and future doses as originally scheduled.

#### Dosing in adults (including children 14 years of age and older)

The recommended adult dose of VIRACEPT is 750 mg (three tablets) taken three times a day. Each dose should be taken with a meal or light snack.

#### Dosing in children 2 through 13 years of age

The VIRACEPT dose in children depends on their weight. The recommended dose is 20 to 30 mg/kg (or 9 to 14 mg/pound) per dose, taken three times daily with a meal or light snack. This can be administered either in tablet form or, in children unable to take tablets, as VIRACEPT Oral Powder.

Dose instructions will be provided by the child's doctor. The dose will be given three times daily using the measuring scoop provided, a measuring teaspoon, or one or more tablets depending on the weight and age of the child. The amount of oral powder or tablets to be given to a child is described in the chart below.

#### Pediatric Dose to Be Administered Three Times Daily

Body Weight		Number of Level Scoops*	Number of Level Teaspoons†	Number of Tablets
Kg	Lb			
7 to < 8.5	15.5 to <18.5	4	1	-
8.5 to <10.5	18.5 to <23	5	1¼	-
10.5 to <12	23 to <26.5	6	1½	-
12 to <14	26.5 to <31	7	1¾	-
14 to <16	31 to <35	8	2	-
16 to <18	35 to <39.5	9	2¼	-
18 to <23	39.5 to <50.5	10	2½	2
≥23	≥50.5	15	3¾	3

In measuring oral powder, the scoop or teaspoon should be level.

\* 1 level scoop contains 50 mg of VIRACEPT. Use only the scoop provided with your VIRACEPT bottle.

† 1 level teaspoon contains 200 mg of VIRACEPT. Note: A measuring teaspoon used for dispensing medication should be used for measuring VIRACEPT Oral Powder. Ask your pharmacist to make sure you have a medication dispensing teaspoon.

#### How should VIRACEPT Oral Powder be prepared?

The oral powder may be mixed with a small amount of water, milk, formula, soy formula, soy milk, dietary supplements, or dairy foods such as pudding or ice cream. Once mixed, the entire amount must be taken to obtain the full dose.

Do not mix the powder with any acidic food or juice, such as orange or grapefruit juice, apple juice, or apple sauce, because this may create a bitter taste.

Once the powder is mixed, it may be stored at room temperature or refrigerated for up to 6 hours. Do not heat the mixed dose once it has been prepared.

Do not add water to bottles of oral powder.

VIRACEPT powder is supplied with a scoop for measuring. For help in determining the exact dose of powder for your child, please ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

VIRACEPT Oral Powder contains aspartame, a low-calorie sweetener, and therefore should not be taken by children with phenylketonuria (PKU).

#### HOW SHOULD VIRACEPT BE STORED?

Keep VIRACEPT and all other medicines out of the reach of children. Keep bottle closed and store at room temperature (between 59°F and 86°F) away from sources of moisture such as a sink or other damp place. Heat and moisture may reduce the effectiveness of VIRACEPT.

Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need. Be sure that if you throw any medicine away, it is out of the reach of children.

Discuss all questions about your health with your doctor. If you have questions about VIRACEPT or any other medication you are taking, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist. You can also call 1.888.VIRACEPT (1.888.847.2237) toll free.

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Issued 11/13/97

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Getting down under

# On the road to Gay Games VI

by Jim Provenzano

**G**arrie Gibson, the chief executive officer of Gay Games VI, the Australian company charged with producing the next edition of the world's largest sports event, rolled into San Francisco last Thursday, November 4, on the final leg of his U.S. tour promoting the Games.

Several travel industry folks were treated to an afternoon screening of the Aussie promo video at the Eureka Valley Recreation Center as Gibson, a former member of the Australian Parliament, answered questions about the upcoming event, set for November 2-9 in 2002.

Surprisingly, Gay Games V drew more participants — about 15,000 — than the Olympics, which had about 10,000 participants at the 1996 games.

Gibson stressed in no uncertain terms that the sixth time would be a charm, and that the blunders and problems of Gay Games V were history. He did mention that the organizers are anticipating a modest 14,000 participants, down 1,000 from the estimated figure for last year's Games.

But even with fewer numbers, they'll be hard-pressed not to create a successful event. With the largest gay tourist industry in the Southern Hemisphere, and one of the most tolerant and progressively pro-gay governments, Sydney will also be blessed with massive facilities broken in by the 2000 Olympic Games.

"If you want to know where you'll be competing," said Gibson, "watch the Olympics. You'll be swimming in that same pool, playing football in the same fields."

After the press conference, that evening Gibson presented more information at a reception for

Gay Games and Team San Francisco members at the Albion House, home of Gay Softball Commissioner Sarah Waddell-Lewinstein. As members of various teams and sports hobnobbed and schmoozed over an array of tasty food, Gibson relayed improvements and advances in the Games' formative stage.

Included in the Games for the first time, and bringing a bit of Aussie flavor, are touch rugby, and demonstration ocean sports events on the famous Bondi Beach. Another new entry is Netball, a variation on basketball, which is very popular with women down under.

The cultural festival commences a full week before the athletic events. It is hoped that tourists will take advantage of the many sites and social opportunities offered in Sydney and the surrounding areas.

"A lot of the cultural activities will take place in Olympic Park," Gibson said. "Right next door to major sporting events are halls and stages and entertainment spaces."

Gibson anticipated that the Games would impact the Sydney economy as well as the dating pool. An estimated \$100 million (AUS) should come into the country, affording some red carpet treatment for jocks from around the globe, who, of course, Gibson stressed, should fly Qantas, the official sponsoring airline.

Included in the special outreach areas for GGVII are Asian and Pacific countries. Gibson specifically mentioned Mandarin as one of five languages that will be translated for promotional material. Specific Asian languages will be used for individual countries throughout the Pacific Rim.

While Gay Game V was noted for its large influx of European participants, the sixth edition of the immense quadrennial sports

festival will be more Asian-Pacific inclusive than ever before.

Gibson mentioned that the hope was that scholarship support could be expanded to continue in developing countries and "those where being gay or lesbian is more difficult."

Finances are an issue, specifically with hotels. In addition to numerous complaints about Wens Travel and other groups failing to provide rooms, overbooking or overcharging in Amsterdam, a recent hubbub was raised about the mark-up of hotel rooms in Sydney for next year's 2000 Olympics.

According to reports from the *Sydney Herald*, \$170 rooms jumped to upward of \$272.50. People have been forced to pay double or triple the rate for rooms, in addition to an added bed tax, which, according to reporter Michael Evans of the *Herald*, Sydney travel groups conspired to agree on as early as 1995 in preparation for the Olympics.

"As accommodation gets tighter, some hotels will continue to raise prices and some visitors will be badly ripped off," said Matthew Moore in a *Herald* editorial on the 2000 Olympics situation.

Hopefully, that won't happen for Gay Games VI. Several groups are requesting status as official tour package providers to GGVII, and Gibson implied that there would be a system of regulating pricing.

With three-fourths of previous Games participants having access to e-mail, Gibson hoped to make signing up as technologically simple as possible, and economical.

And although the official website remains volunteer-based, Gibson hoped for corporate support to expand the site to accommodate nearly all registration information and applications for Gay Games VI, "so people don't have to register and then re-register" he said, referring to Amsterdam's confusing procedures. His comment was met with understandable applause.

Actual registration forms may not be available until 2001, but Gibson assured local bowlers, softball players, and other jocks that things were developing at a good pace, and that facility, hotel, and cultural preparations were proceeding at a much faster rate than previous Gay Games.

He did stress, however, that with only three years, potential participants should begin plan-



Gay Games VI CEO Garrie Gibson

ning now, saving money and organizing upcoming fundraisers for their chosen sport or cultural activity. One athlete figured out that saving \$2 a day from this week on would be enough for a low-budget 10-day trip. ▼

To find out more, visit the website at: [www.gaygamesVI.org.au](http://www.gaygamesVI.org.au); write: Sydney 2002 Gay Games Ltd GPO Box 2763, Sydney, Australia 2001; phone: +61 500 80 2002; or fax: +61 500 82 2002. Participants, artists, sponsors, and marketers can e-mail: [admin2002@gaygamesVI.org.au](mailto:admin2002@gaygamesVI.org.au), [sport@gaygamesVI.org.au](mailto:sport@gaygamesVI.org.au), [culture@gaygamesVI.org.au](mailto:culture@gaygamesVI.org.au), [sponsors@gaygamesVI.org.au](mailto:sponsors@gaygamesVI.org.au), [marketing@gaygamesVI.org.au](mailto:marketing@gaygamesVI.org.au).

## Past Out

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But Jordan's closet prevented her from extending her fervor for civil rights to equality for her fellow gays and lesbians. In 1976, either from fear of being outed or of losing votes, Jordan publicly refused to co-sponsor federal gay rights legislation. "There is no way," she told a radio talk show host, "that I can equate discrimination on the basis of sexual preference with discrimination on the basis of skin color."

Just as her political career was soaring, Jordan abruptly retired from office in 1978. Though she denied being ill, she was suffering from multiple sclerosis and opted for a quiet life in Austin with Earl. For the next 15 years, she taught at the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas, reemerging in Washington briefly in 1994 as the chair of President Clinton's task force on immigration.

After Jordan's death from viral pneumonia in 1996, the *Houston Chronicle* quietly outed her by running an obituary citing Earl as

her "longtime companion" — common newspaper code for "lover." But Earl steadfastly honored Jordan's desire for privacy. "I was her good friend," Earl told a reporter. "People can say whatever they want." ▼

David Bianco is the author of *Gay Essentials* ([www.alyson.com](http://www.alyson.com)), a collection of his history columns. He can be reached at [DaveBianco@aol.com](mailto:DaveBianco@aol.com). For more Past Out, visit [www.planetout.com](http://www.planetout.com).

# Controversies in HIV Care

This educational program will focus on two of the most pressing issues facing people with HIV—drug resistance and lipodystrophy (fat redistribution). Come hear the latest treatment information available, and use the opportunity to ask questions of local physicians and HIV/AIDS advocates.

**DATE:** Wednesday, January 12  
**LOCATION:** Cityplace  
 2711 North Haskell Avenue  
 Suite 100, LB #34  
 Dallas, TX  
 Turtle Creek Room  
**TIME:** 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM *Buffet Dinner*  
 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM *Topics of Discussion*

- Understanding HIV-associated Lipodystrophy
- HIV Drug Resistance: Planning for Long-term Treatment Success

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We are a research team working in the Department of Neurology at UCSF. The placebo-controlled treatment is with a pill called lamotrigine that is available to treat seizures, not pain. No nerve biopsies or nerve conduction studies will be performed. We will reimburse you \$25 per visit or up to \$225 in total for your time, effort and travel expenses to take part in this 5-month trial.

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# STI: A drug holiday by any other name?

by Jeff Gustavson, ACT UP/  
Golden Gate Writers Pool

Without a doubt, the most dramatic progress in treating HIV during the AIDS epidemic in the United States, Canada, and Western Europe has been made with the widespread advent of highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART). Nevertheless, researchers report as much as a 50 percent failure rate of protease inhibitor containing regimens as well as metabolic disturbances such as facial wasting, mid-section fat accumulation, and abnormally high cholesterol and triglyceride levels. At the same time, the continuing upward revision of the eradication hypothesis (it is now at 60 years) compels revisiting the sustainability of prolonged use of antiretroviral therapy.

Additionally, last week, Dr. Roger Pomerantz and his colleagues reported they were able to find very low levels of viral replication in samples declared "undetectable" irrespective of the lower limit of detection. This is consistent with Dr. David Ho's observation of genetic drift in the latently infected pool (where virus is integrated, but not actively produced) which indirectly presumed low level replication as well.

**Less is not more**

In the yin yang of treatment dogma, the formerly anathemic idea of stopping antiretroviral treatment for HIV has garnered serious interest from both the

community and clinical researchers alike. This contrasts sharply with the largely failed concept of induction/maintenance. This incomplete halt of therapy studied people who were successful (undetectable viral load) on triple or quadruple therapy and asked what happened when given dual or monotherapy which lacked much community support.

Two studies highlighted that induction/maintenance did not work. Allowing on-going viral replication in the presence of suboptimal antiretroviral therapy would produce resistance constituted a major concern for safety. In the AIDS Clinical Trials Group (ACTG) Trial 343, 23 percent of participants randomized to "maintenance" therapy of one or two antiretroviral medications, after a 24-week induction period of undetectability on triple therapy, experienced a rapid rise in virus above 200 copies per milliliter. This trial was stopped by an interim review committee for safety reasons. In the ADAM trial from Amsterdam, nine out of 14 persons who were switched from four drugs to two had viral rebound. In theory, generation of resistance should be much less without the selective pressure of any antiretrovirals in a structured treatment interruption (STI).

**None may be better**

Dr. Larry Fox works as a med-

ical officer with the HIV Treatment Research Program at the Division of AIDS at the National Institute of Allergies and Infectious Diseases, one of the Institutes that make up the National Institutes of Health. "A structured treatment interruption may be of benefit to three different populations of persons with HIV infection," said Fox. "First, there are those who successfully began treatment

**ACT UP**

in early infection. Three patients who began to receive treatment soon after being infected have now been reported to interrupt therapy without viral rebound. The so-called Berlin patient reported by Dr. Franco Lori as well as two people from a Brussels cohort. In the case of the Berlin patient, there were successive periods of therapy withdrawal followed by reintroduction of therapy."

These reports are anecdotal but greatly encouraging. The question that needs to be asked in a prospective fashion is if it's possible to treat someone for a period of time and allow the immune system to gain the upper hand and be able to control infection. ACTG 371, a study of early infection enrolling locally at the Positive Health Project (formerly known as Ward 86), is planning a withdrawal of medicine after two years of undetectability (<200 copies).

**Stuck in the middle**

The second group for which STI may be of benefit is the more chronically infected, but successfully treated on HAART. Fox explained, "Individuals in this category are being studied by the intramural group here at the NIH. We will take individuals with CD4 counts above 300 and viral loads less than 50 and follow them for two years to see if there is a clinical difference to remaining on therapy or if equivalence can be achieved with treatment interruption." Those in the treatment interruption arm will have one month off therapy followed by two months on. "This is more along the lines of chronic cancer treatment where therapy is not expected to be continuous," Fox said.

Fox added, "At the other end of the spectrum, there are people whose virus which has multiple resistance mutations and for whom antiretroviral therapy has failed. Dr. Veronica Miller from Frankfurt, Germany, has reported on her cohort of patients who stopped treatment for a variety of reasons. She reported that in two-thirds of those who stopped, their virus had reverted to wild type [no mutations]. Presumably, however, mutant virus is still there, just not being picked up in the assay."

Miller was able to resuppress in some of her patients using mega-HAART, regimens that use five or more drugs. However, Fox cautioned: "Fully one-half or the patients in the Frankfurt cohort did not see their CD4s [T-helper cells] return to the levels that they were before going off therapy. This may have something to do with the fact that they were low to start, but it does raise flags."

**Prove it all night**

Unfortunately, all the information next page ►

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## OBITUARIES

## OBITUARY POLICY

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow normal rules of capitalization - and no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste.

If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death.

Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

## Mark David Adcock



Mark David Adcock died October 29 after a tragic accident in his San Francisco home.

Mark was born September 22, 1963 in Dubuque, Iowa. He graduated from Austin College in Sherman, Texas.

Mark then flew off to join the Peace Corps as a bilingual Literacy Coordinator on the north coast of Honduras.

In 1991, Mark made his way to sunny San Francisco. From the moment

he arrived he experienced every day fully. Mark had a disarming southern charm that drew people to him. He had a smile that could light up a room. He was an amazing friend.

One of Mark's proudest moments was when he was asked to become a Deacon of the 7th Ave. Presbyterian Church.

Mark contributed to a variety of companies and charities in San Francisco, including the SPCA. He was looking forward to beginning a new job. Mark helped to educate the wine buffs of the Castro while working for a wine store.

Mark is survived by Linda and Wayne Adcock of Fayetteville, John Adcock of Kansas, Rebecca Lormand of Wisconsin, and many other relatives.

Mark's close-knit San Francisco family was very special to him. He made all who knew him feel special, including Unicorn, Ted, Meredith, Michael, Chris, Bob and many, many others. We will all miss him terribly.

Memorial services will be held at 11:30 Saturday, November 13, 1999 at 7th Ave. Presbyterian Church, 1329 7th Ave. at Irving, San Francisco.

## Garry Lee Eliason

December 23, 1950 — September 25, 1999

Garry Lee Eliason of Santa Rosa died peacefully in Guerneville surrounded by close friends on Saturday evening September 25, 1999 after a brief yet courageous fight with cancer.

Garry was a Sonoma County resident for most of his 49 years. He was an avid gardener, an artist, a carpenter, an electrician and a proud veteran.

Beneath his rather complex exterior was a gentle and sensitive man who

cared deeply for nature, his family and friends, and especially for his "Border Collie Dalmation Mix" dog Boulder. We will all miss him tremendously.

Garry is survived by his mother, father, and two brothers of Sonoma, a host of friends, as well as by his beloved Boulder.

A celebration of Garry's life will be held on Friday, November 12, 1999 at 7 p.m. in Guerneville. Call (707) 869-1860 for more information.

## Rodolfo "Gustavo" Reyes

July 4, 1959 — October 30, 1999



Gustavo literally walked as a boy from Guatemala to make his home in the United States.

He moved to San Francisco in 1979. He later obtained his U.S. citizenship. He spent the last two years of

his life wandering from coast to coast despite terrible AIDS illnesses which plagued him. He was incredibly resilient. Gustavo ran his own very successful housekeeping business for several years until he was too ill to continue.

Gustavo was a very honest, kind and sensitive person, and many people will miss him. If he had just one dollar to his name, he would share it with a friend. He is survived by his mother Maria, his closest friends Matthew and Jim, and his dog Tanner (who is now in Matthew's care). A mass will be scheduled at a later date. For questions, please call (415) 336-4559.

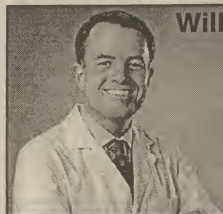
Farewell, "Lupita," till we meet again. We love you.



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## Gay Health Care Since 1979

## ACT UP

◀ previous page

tion gathered so far has been out of the context of a prospective randomized trial. Soon, however, we may know more. The first such trial of treatment interruption is being conducted by Dr. Steve Deeks here at the University of California, San Francisco/San Francisco General Hospital in collaboration with Drs. Marc Hellerstein of the University of California, Berkeley, and Mike McCune and Bob Grant of the Gladstone Institute of Virology and Immunology and coordinated by the fabulous Becky Hoh discussed in an earlier writers pool column (see "You can do something about protease inhibitor failure"). This trial has fully accrued and will likely be presented at the human retrovirus conference early next year here in San Francisco.

The Community Program for Clinical Research on AIDS (CPCRA) has a two arm trial in development for people in salvage situations. Participants in the MDR HIV drug trial must be able to construct a genotypically viable regimen and will be randomized to either an immediate switch to that therapy or an interruption (what used to be called a "washout"). They will then be followed to see which group does better.

## Undetectable is not enough

The ACTG is planning two treatment interruption studies, A5024 and A5068. A5068, currently completing development, is being chaired by Dr. Jeff Jacobson of Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York City. Jacobson explained, "There is a growing realization that antiretroviral success [in terms of suppression of viral load] has failed to restore HIV-specific immunity. We are hoping to stimulate more long lasting health by boosting the person's own immunity through both introduction of an exogenous [from the outside] vaccine, and auto-immunization using the patient's own virus like a vaccine."

Jacobson added, "Our study will enroll 80 relatively healthy individuals with CD4 counts above 500 and an undetectable viral load

of less than 50 copies for the last six months prior to entry. We have built in safety features such as frequent viral load monitoring and are on guard for any precipitous CD4 cell decline. This four arm study will compare no interruption against an arm that has three two-week interruptions, an arm that will receive vaccination with canary pox vaccine and an arm that has both cycles of interruption and the vaccination. The comparison will be made at the end when all four arms will go off treatment for six weeks and use the new viral set point as read out."

It is hoped that the set point would be lower after either or both kinds of immunization.

## Don't try this at home

These studies all pose inter-

esting questions as well as help to determine whether there is any clinical benefit to treatment interruption. Nevertheless, it is too early to tell whether interruption is useful. This should not in any way be confused with a single or several daylong drug holidays which no one recommends. STI studies are being conducted with intense safety monitoring for CD4 and viral load changes. Interruptions are not being recommended outside of a trial setting due to all the safety concerns. ▼

For more information about CPCRA trials, call (415) 476-9554. For more information about ACTG trials, call (415) 476-9296.

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# Big wheels

by Jim Provenzano

**W**e're not blocking traffic. We are traffic."

This frequent saying, and the title of a recently screened Bay Area video, are a sort of common understanding that thousands of hardy cyclists often shout when nearly sideswiped, run over, or doored by reckless car drivers.

Yet things are improving. New bike lanes, parking racks, and an increased awareness for cyclist rights and safety are taking place, thanks in great part to the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition (SFBC), a pro-active group of bike enthusiasts devoted to improving the status of cyclists on Bay Area streets.

This Saturday, November 13, the SFBC will hold a Member Appreciation Party, with food, drink, auctions of bikes and cycling gear, and a chance for new members to join the growing group, which started in the 1970s, and was revived in 1991.

While the freewheeling Critical Mass represents the more radical contingent of the tattooed hipster messenger subculture, the SFBC has come to be considered a more moderate force in cyclist politics, exemplified by helmet-wearing cyclists, some even with babies in tow.

Following the now-famous September 1997 demonstration, which was ambushed by Mayor

Willie Brown's Tiennaman Square police tactics, and the resultant lawsuits from wrongful and violent arrests, the coalition has served as a voice for administering improvements.

As more cautious Critical Mass rides continue the last Friday of every month, the coalition — a separate organization — lobbies City Hall for practical and thorough solutions to the needs of Bay Area cyclists.

Heading up these efforts is board president John Fall, a gay writer and editor, whose irreverent work has graced the pages of *cruisingforsex.com* and community magazines.

An avid cyclist, Fall is only one of what he estimates to be an over 25 percent gay and lesbian membership among the coalition's 2,400 members.

Why the strong queer contingent?

"The gay community has a history of activism, getting things done," he said. "It's not about debating and talk. It's also a very social group. There's always something going on."

The North Dakota-born cyclist, who lived for a long time in Seattle, says that city is much more cyclist-friendly than the Bay Area, where "it's still a real struggle in a culture that assumes you're weird if, on the road, you're not sitting in a car."

Fall is passionate about increasing safe routes for kids to get

to schools, as well as making sure the new bike lanes aren't used as double-parking lanes for autos, a persistent problem in the Castro and Mission districts.

"As we make more inroads, the more bike lanes there'll be. The more bike access, the more successful we are."

Among the SFBC's concerns are improvements in commuter accessibility on BART, and Muni racks for bikes. The SFBC also prevented a proposed \$1 toll for cyclists crossing the Golden Gate Bridge.

Other successes include over 400 new bike racks throughout the city, and other practical discussions to, as Fall said, "improve inter-modal transportation." But a loftier goal includes helping people understand the philosophy of being a cyclist, and weaving it into people's lives as well as city streets.

## She biked to the Castro

Mary Wings, an avid coalition member, lived in Holland for 10 years, where cycling is taken seriously. She's never owned a car.

"It's easier in some regards, especially for queer cyclists," said the author of the popular lesbian mystery series *She Came to the Castro* (Berkley Putnam). "I live in Bernal Heights, and the two-hour effort to find parking was ridiculous. Muni took 45 minutes or longer. On my bike I get to the Castro in 15 minutes."

"The bicycle coalition has really made a difference," Wings said, noting the lack of bike lanes before the coalition's efforts took effect.



Cyclists take to the streets in the monthly demos of bike power.

The 50-year-old writer cycles easily from work to errands in her outreach efforts for Supervisor Tom Ammiano's mayoral campaign.

"If people realized how easy it is to do your errands, they would understand," she said. "I don't care how old you are. You can take a bike. You'll get there faster and easier."

## Bi biker

Emily Drennen, who settled in the Bay Area a few years ago, regularly commutes from the Mission to the Castro, where she's development coordinator for the Lavender Youth Recreation and Information Center (LYRIC), the Bay Area's queer youth support group.

Drennen admits she was "nervous about cycling at first. Then I learned about street riding" and basic safety tips.

A volunteer for this weekend's party, Drennen is collecting in-kind donor solicitations for the auction, which will include bike gear, hotel certificates, and meals at restaurants.

For Drennen, it's for an important cause, since like many, her cycling experiences have their share of mishaps. "I've been cursed at, veered toward, verbally assaulted, and involved in one accident," she said. "At the police station, they refused to report it, citing 'no property damage.'"

Another goal of the coalition is to make police take car-cyclist accidents seriously, as well as "diversifying the membership," Drennen said. "Right now it's mostly straight white men." Drennen is also a bisexual activist. "We're reaching out to all people who use bikes because they have to."

One lofty goal includes getting every Muni bus to have a bike rack, making some steep hilly areas more accessible.

Despite the stereotype of cyclists being wild red-light runners, Drennen is serious about automotive renegades, "really having the police ticket red-light runners," and citing them for abusive driving techniques against cyclists.

After all, when riding a 1964 vintage cycle bought for \$5, she's not only commuting, but traveling with a piece of history — except when it's broken, "then I just use my girlfriend's bike." ▼

**SFBC's fourth annual Member Appreciation Party** takes place Saturday, November 13, from 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Timbuk2 Warehouse, 350 Treat Street at 16th, in San Francisco's Mission District. Admission is free for members, and \$20 to join the coalition. For more info, call (415) 431-2153, e-mail or visit the website at <http://www.sfbike.org/>

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## DA runoff

◀ page 5

Democratic Club, among others.

Fazio has similar plans for the DA's office if he should step into power. He proposes a detailed plan to upgrade victim services for hate crimes and LGBT domestic violence and wants to put LGBT people, women, and people of color in positions "not yet afforded to them." He would also like to reinstate an anti-hate and anti-drug program in the schools, which he plans to personally teach. Fazio enjoys the endorsements of the Police Officers Association, the Latino Peace Officers,

Deputy Sheriff's Association, Asian Pacific Islanders Democratic Club, the *Chronicle*, and the *San Francisco Examiner*. On Tuesday, Fazio received the endorsements of former district attorney candidates Steve Castleman and Mike Schaefer, both of whom finished well behind Fazio. The move could help sway their supporters in Fazio's direction.

Both Hallinan and Fazio have supporters with similar loyalties, and neither thinks the next five weeks will be easy. Both, however, are looking forward to the debates. ▼

The following debates are scheduled between the district

attorney candidates: November 16, from 7-8 p.m., sponsored by the Planning Association for Richmond, held at Lincoln Park Clubhouse, 34th and Clement; November 18, from 6 to 7:30 p.m., sponsored by the National Women's Political Caucus, held at 650 Geary; December 1, from 11:45 a.m.-1:30 p.m., sponsored by various law organizations, held at the state building, 455 Golden Gate; December 6, from 7-8 p.m., Outer Mission debate, 116 Drake Street; December 7, from 8-9 p.m., sponsored by the Clinical Cannabis Community, held at Patients Resource Center, 350 Divisadero.

## Dykeotomy

◀ page 12

what happens in the runoff, Tom, your ability to mobilize so many write-in voters has proven two things: 1) that there's still a strong gay vote ready to support one of our own, and 2) that you are a candidate of issues, not to be reduced to "the gay candidate." Your challenge to the political status quo, your commitment to a living wage, to low-income housing, to open government, and to limiting campaign contributions — those are just some of the many reasons that voters turned out to write you in.

I was crowned the Mayor of Castro Street, but you, Tom, may soon be mayor of it all.

No matter what the final tally in the December election, victory is yours for the running.

Give 'em hope, Tom. You gotta give 'em hope. ▼



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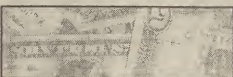
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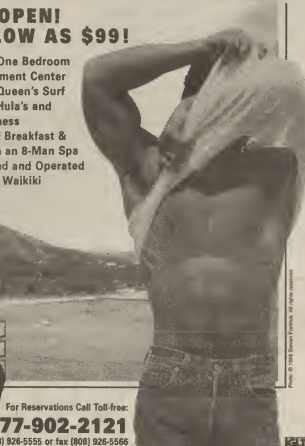
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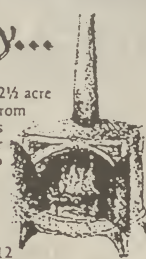
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**STATEMENT FILE NO. 235512**  
The following person(s) are doing business as, John  
Block Photography 2845 Golden Gate Avenue #10  
San Francisco, CA 94118. This business is con-  
ducted by an individual, signed John L. Block. The  
registrant(s) commenced to transact business under  
the above listed fictitious business name or names on  
10/14/99. The statement was filed with the County  
Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA  
on 10/13/99.  
OCT.21, 28, NOV.4, 11 1999



## CLASSIFIEDS

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## LEGAL NOTICES

## STATEMENT FILE NO. 235583

The following person(s) are doing business as, Advance Auto Repair, 2435 - 16th Street, San Francisco, CA. 94103. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Igor Stolper. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 10/01/99. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 10/18/99.

OCT. 21, 28, NOV. 4, 11, 1999

## STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME:

191476  
The following person(s) Igor Stolper have abandoned the use of the use of the fictitious business name known as: Advance Auto Repair. Located at: 2435 - 16th Street, San Francisco, CA. 94103. The fictitious business name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: 10/18/99. This business was conducted by: a general partnership signed: Igor Stolper and Leonid Shapiro. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of San Francisco County on date indicated by file stamp above. October 18, 1999.

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Resume w/ ltr & sal. hist. to Attn: HR/Glide 330 Ellis St. SF CA 94102 or fax: 415-771-8420. (please reference the indicated job posting # in your cover letter) www.Glide.org.

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NOV. 4, 11, 18, 25, 1999

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## LEGAL NOTICES

**STATEMENT FILE NO. 235933**  
The following person(s) are doing business as, Spike 1000, 3101 California Street #7, San Francisco, Ca. 94115. This business is conducted by a general partnership, signed Shannon Harris and Michael Honnick. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 10/29/99. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 10/29/99.  
NOV. 4, 11, 18, 25, 1999

**STATEMENT FILE NO. 235810**  
The following person(s) are doing business as, J. Sunburst Property 2, Sunburst Construction, 2 Bayside Village Place, Suite #312, San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by an individual signed Harry David Litke. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 10/26/99.  
NOV. 4, 11, 18, 25, 1999

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**FRANCISCO: FILE NO. 307511**  
In the Matter of the Application of Theopolis Hickelberry For Change of Name. The application of Theopolis Hickelberry for change of name, having been filed in court, and it appearing from said application that Theopolis Hickelberry has filed an application proposing that his name be changed to Donald Shields. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in department X-4/206 on the 9th day of December, 1999, at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.  
NOV. 4, 11, 18, 25 1999

**STATEMENT FILE NO. 236059**  
The following person(s) are doing business as, Plan And Deliver, 186 Valley Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94131. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Amy P. Hyams. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 11/02/99. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 11/03/99.  
NOV. 11, 18, 25, DEC 2, 1999



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'All-American Girl' spirals downward  
Margaret Cho, back from decadence, in  
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'Ecstasy for Everyone'  
Cinematheque's homage  
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Done with despair  
Marc Almond survives  
every rock star cliché.

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BAY AREA REPORTER

# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Vol. 29 • No. 45 • 11 November 1999



## Ari's wild ride in Ana Kokkinos' debut, *Head On*

In the opening frames of *Head On*, now playing at the Castro Theatre, 19-year-old Ari is dancing at a Greek wedding. Ari appears to be happy, tightly connected to his Australian-Greek family's wheel of life, and content with the immigrant mantra that family and race are the core identities, that all a young man should do is work hard and marry well. Suddenly, Ari spins out of the circle of dancers, spins out from the family bosom into an underworld of drugs and highly-charged anonymous sex. We see Ari jacking off to the sights and smells of toilet sex — as if he could literally ejaculate himself from the head of his penis into a 24/7 world of total freedom.

*Head On*'s director Ana Kokkinos, herself a second generation child of Greek heritage, says that to Ari, the ties that bind the immigrant community are chains. "He literally expels himself from the wedding sequence because he knows that he's never going to be able to marry, fit in or conform," Ari says Kokkinos, is a rebellious character who is searching for freedom through defiance.

Kokkinos chose a fiercely heterosexual-identified Aussie soap opera star to play homosexual nihilist Ari. If James Dean should happen to return to this planet in the body of a young Mel Gibson, his name would be Alex Dimitriades. Like so many straight actors called upon to play gay, Dimitriades throws himself into the task with unusual fervor. He told an English gay magazine that his passion to play Ari was based on having twice read *Loaded*, the cult novel which is the basis for *Head On*. Dimitriades claims that while he had no problems with *Head On*'s gay sex scenes, it was excruciating for him to have to masturbate on camera. "I'm naked in front of the entire crew and have to keep a hard-on. I mean, it's crazy when you think about it."

Director Kokkinos says that on one level, *Head On* is a more sexually explicit updating of the classic immigrant story in which a son rejects his father's youthful radicalism as passé and even worse. *Head On*'s opening scenes show Ari's father defying the mounted police thuggery of Greek fascism while his young sons look on with admiration. The gay man that Ari is becoming views his father's values like a castrating knife held next to his balls. Ari's father, in turn, calls him "an animal" whose unspeakable vice of buggery can be linked to his hanging out with Johnny, the drag queen son of an old movement comrade. Johnny has an unrequited lust for Ari that will land the two of them in deep trouble with a pair of gay-bashing cops. Johnny — who in his drag persona "Tula" claims to be channeling the spirit of his dead mother, to the utter disgust of his hard-drinking father — leads Ari on a wild orgy of late-night bar-hopping that culminates in a humiliating strip search at a Melbourne police station. The arresting officers unleash a torrent of physical and verbal abuse that resembles some Nazi s/m fantasy. The Anglo head cop incites his Greek partner to act out his own fantasies of ethnic

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## Spinning out of control

by David Lamble

Alex Dimitriades stars  
as Ari in *Head On*

## Back from the brink of fame

by Richard Dodds

### Marga Gomez brings jaywalker to SF

Marga Gomez, who gave up San Francisco for the Hollywood dream, was wearing her sunglasses indoors. But she didn't look like a movie star.

"I didn't sleep last night," she said, adding that that last bottle of beer probably didn't help. "How terrible do I look?" she said after finally shedding the shades.

Actually, Gomez looked fine in a funky, casual sort of way. And the night of tossing and turning had helped her solve a problem with *jaywalker*, her lower-cased one-woman show opening this week at Theatre Rhinoceros.

"I never have my shows ready in a healthy fashion," she said. "I can only work in a crunch. And this one is tricky. Under the right circumstances, it's fun and cool. With the wrong circumstances, people hate me."

This is the official world premiere of *jaywalker*, though she has workshopped the show in several cities. For Gomez, it gives her a chance for an extended return home to the city to where she fled as a teenager and where she developed a career as a Latina lesbian stand-up comic, writer, and actress.

She was growing so successful, in fact, that a move to Los Angeles two years ago seemed unavoidable. Now she wishes she had avoided it, yet without those experiences, there would be no *jaywalker*.

Gomez's new show offers a surreal take on her time in Hollywood, and though it is fictionalized, it is definitely inspired by actual events. "Like the time I stumbled upon John Tesh getting his star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame," she said. "It was actually disturbing."

Her frustrating efforts at auditioning are also fact-based, including her humiliating experience at trying out for the maid's

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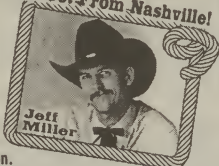
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by Roberto Friedman  
and Federico Fellatio

What a week of giant-slaying it's been! During write-in king (and queen) **Tom Ammiano's** campaign party Election Night at Josie's Cabaret, the poppin' populist recognized retired *BAR* newswriter **Dennis Conkin** from Conky's days on the beat at City Hall. "Miracle baby" Ammiano leaned forward and kissy-kissed dear DC while the paparazzi flashbulbs popped — a true *La Dolce Vita* moment. Isn't it fun when bylines come to life? At the same party, someone named **Blanche** was introduced to *Exam* columnist **Rob Morse** and loudly inquired, "Rob Who?"

Things have been crazy from coast to coast. SF scenester **Lu Read** aka **Fudgie Frottage** says she was assaulted at a biker bar called Hogs and Heifers in NYC's meat district last month by an employee of the club.

Read had been flown out to be on *The Maury Povich Show* for a Drag King. "Is it a boy or girl?" show. The producers of the Maury show arranged for a bunch of Kings and their friends to appear in a "pre-taped" segment at the notorious Hogs bar. Attendees included **Del LaGrace Volcano**, author of *The Drag King Book*, some Kings from Toronto, and Fudgie and his back-up dancers.

"They got us real liquored up for the shoot," Read reports. "The bar's decor is reminiscent of *The Hole In The Wall*, but as the wall of bras indicates, the place is heinously hetero — although one of the cute bartenders asked a King for his number."

"We arrived around 6 p.m. The bar's regular clientele left much to be desired at that hour. The hottest chicks in the bar, before the Fudgettes walked in, were the bartenders, who were two-stepping on the bar. The music was C/W and R&B. It got wild very quickly — they were pouring tequila, Jack and Jaeger shots like water."

"Squeaky and Miss T [aka the Fudgettes] were in some super slutty outfits and were driving the straight guys in the place wild with desire, all the while insisting they were drag queens."

Read says she and Miss T were burst in upon while trying to pee, picked up, dragged through the club and thrown out, as the club bouncer shouted, "You don't even have a penis!"

"I was flabbergasted. Hello, we are drag kings."

The *Maury Show* people showed up and defused the situation. The bouncer's story is that they were having sex in the bathroom, which is against the club's policy. Read has filed a report with the NYC Anti-Violence Project. She expects the *Maury Drag King* show to air in the next few weeks.

**Hello, dollface**

We're always happy to receive news of the plastic merchandise available from "Billyworld," the marketing universe which brings us the gay **Billy** doll and his lover-doll **Carlos**. Billy and Carlos have been available for a while now — very available — in outfits like Vacation Billy and Cha-Cha Carlos, but now they've succumbed to their trendiest impulses and covered their ample carcasses in macho tattoos. Also new on the scene is the first black gay doll (it had to happen), **Tyson**, and as we learn from their publicity, "The



Tyson in leather digs

threesome met last summer, and Tyson being such a fun-loving, outgoing, gregarious type of guy, who also happens to be breathtakingly gorgeous, they all instantly became best buddies and have been inseparable ever since!" Uh, what do you call an inseparable threeway of horse-hung plastic gay dolls? You call them late for dinner!

Their product specs indicate that the dolls stand 13 inches high (suspicious) and weigh 11.3 oz. (go Zone diet!) "All three are made from five precision-molded body parts [head & torso, two arms, two legs ... wait a minute, we've found another part!], so they can be moved into many positions." We are so sure.



Pre-haircut Mark Morris

**Dancing queen**

Spotted dancing with a luggage cart in the lobby of his London hotel, during the recent San Francisco Ballet tour which drew raves in Britain: inspired choreographer **Mark Morris**, dressed mannishly (we mean for him), with bags, and in that great new short haircut. Make that singing and dancing: it seems Mama's always on stage! Word from our usually **Reliable Source** is that Mr. Morris is going to create a full-length ballet for SF Ballet

sometime in the next millennium, and we wait with bated breathe. For now, improv with luggage will have to do.



French novelist Colette

**French kissing**

It's pointless, really, to try to describe the breathless new account of the life of early-century French novelist **Colette**, *Secrets of the Flesh* by **Judith Thurman** (Knopf), in 25 words or less. Consider just a tidbit: "Desperate to finish *Break of Day*, Colette drove south the week before Christmas 1926 with **Pauline** and the cats and opened La Treille Muscate. "The novel torments me," she told **Moreno**, and "I don't really see what I'm doing." They fired up the stoves, in part with the pages she kept tearing up, and ate large quantities of fish and garlic. ... But it rained steadily, and the house was so damp and cold that Colette moved to a hotel, where she was briefly joined by **Maurice**. ...

"On January 11, *La Revue de Paris* began to publish the novel in installments. A few days later, Colette left for Saint-Moritz, where she spent her birthday skiing with **Alba Crosbie**. She neither consulted nor invited Maurice, who complained bitterly about her desertion. He told her that he would never have done the same thing to her — and that, of course, was part of his great allure."



Bertrand, Colette's stepson

Colette was a subversive in her own ruthless way. She was a lover to both women and men, and seduced her stepson **Bertrand** when she was 47 and he, sweet 16, as we learn in Thurman's rather euphemistic account: "Colette's gesture was a question too delicate or too indecent to be spoken. Bertrand's flesh gave her the response of which his voice would have been incapable. She rephrased it a few nights later when she intercepted him on the stairs as he was going up to bed. He offered his cheek for a good night kiss, but she insisted on his mouth." ▼



# Crimes against Berg

## SFO's misconceived 'Wozzeck'

by Stephanie von Buchau

The best *Wozzeck* I ever heard was at the Los Angeles Opera in 1988. Simon Rattle conducted the Los Angeles Philharmonic, whose then executive director, the legendary Ernest Fleischmann, sat next to me in the Chandler Pavilion and had several not-so-silent epiphanies as his band alternately caressed and slashed its way through Alban Berg's sternly radiant atonalisms.

And when Berg really wants to turn the screws on his audience — and he did, which is why he is a great opera composer — he is not ashamed to borrow a sentimental device out of *Madama Butterfly* (the humming chorus) or write a major orchestral interlude in the key of (gasp) D-minor. The story may be bitter and the musical means formally mathematical, but the bottom line in *Wozzeck* is expression.

That's what makes the current San Francisco Opera revival of Lotfi Mansouri's 1990 *Wozzeck* production so disappointing. The clichéd Expressionist staging drives me nuts — more about that in a minute — but the musical performance is even worse: unnecessarily gelid (except when it is overwrought), precise without being interesting, and about as warmly human as the beans that *Wozzeck*'s quacky doctor insists he eat. It's also miscast, with a youngish, stolid *Wozzeck* new to his role (Alan Held), paired with a tough old stewing hen (Hildegard Behrens) as his common-law wife, Marie. He looks as if he could be her half-wit son.

As for musical values, Held's voice is a medium-weight baritone that seems more sure of itself in smallish character roles. His Balstrode and Gunther were vigorous, incisive psychological portraits, sung with ringing confidence. Apparently that fooled SFO management (and me, too, I admit) into thinking he could project starring roles such as Wotan and *Wozzeck*. So far, the evidence is that he can't, at least not as long as he looks so terrified. Not only were Wotan and *Wozzeck* dramatic ciphers, but both roles were undervocalized. True, Held sang *Wozzeck*'s mixture of speech-song (*Sprechstimme*) and atonal lyricism more accurately than the late Geraint

Evans ever did, but his voice lacks focus, and the entire characterization is so recessive that it engenders no sympathy for the down-trodden fellow.

As for Behrens, yes I know she was a sterling Elektra, Salome and Brünnhilde, but SFO waited way too long to hire her. Her single *Ring* here in 1990 was revelatory, even if it wasn't pristinely sung, but 1999 is too late for her to be singing Marie, a character who must have some youthful allure and who, after all, has a two-year-old child. Marilyn Horne sang a young Marie here in the early '60s, but since then SFO Marias have been overly mature and cursed with unattractive voices. The unspoken shrug seems to be: It's modern music, it's supposed to sound ugly. Which reminds me of the time Herbert von Karajan was accused of making Berg, Schoenberg and Webern sound too beautiful. The ever-irritating conductor, bless him, replied, "You are wrong, gentlemen. It is just music, and therefore should be beautiful."

### Disaster epic

The third perp in this crime against Berg is conductor Michael Boder. His *Ring* this summer was a small-scale disappointment; his unexpressive *Wozzeck* is a large-scale disaster. He deconstructed the etudes, inventions and symphonic movements in Berg's formal procedure, but never put them back together as music. I suspect Boder never goes out into the auditorium to check on balances, blend and volume levels. The D-minor interlude, which usually induces scalding tears in me, was just loud, not intense.

As for the production, *Wozzeck* is an Expressionist opera, and it is obvious that film buff Mansouri has been influenced by German Expressionist cinema. The huge shadow thrown by the ranting Doctor (Michael Eder) is right out of another doctor's cabinet. The silly dance of the Doctor and Captain (ear-splitting Kenneth Riegel) is amusing enough by itself, but it suggests a lack of imagination as well.

When the music is already expressing so much nuttiness, increased absurdity on stage diminishes rather than enhances Berg's point about man's inhumanity to man.

After 28 years of assuming that *Wozzeck* was a gray Expressionist

pill that opera-lovers had to swallow every so often for their own good, the LA Opera, by creating a counterpoint stage picture to the music, rather than slavishly imitating it, taught me that the opera could be exhilarating, not depressing. The LA *Wozzeck* was set in a hot and sweaty banana republic; you could feel the sex and moral rot oozing out of everybody and everything. Yet nobody was called upon to lurch like Mansouri's puppets; they walked upright like "normal" people.

The LA Drum Major (the late Warren Ellsworth, whose death from AIDS was one of the operatic tragedies of the '90s) was raw libido rather than the bizarre macho caricature in the SFO production. On the other hand, I give SFO's Mark Lundberg credit for not refusing to go on stage in that hideous clown costume, makeup and wig. It would be interesting to hear what Lundberg could do with the other heroic roles in his c.v. — Samson, Canio and Bacchus. We haven't had *Ariadne auf Naxos* here in ages. Can this guy hack a leading role in a major house, or is he still another jumped-up comprimario? I'm game to find out, if you are. ▽

*Wozzeck* plays in repertory through Nov. 17 at the War Memorial Opera House. For tickets (\$22-145), call 864-3330.



Bass Michael Eder and bass-baritone Alan Held in *Wozzeck*

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# The rise and fall of Margaret Cho

Films 'I'm the One That I Want' at Warfield

by Richard Dodds

Margaret Cho thought she had booked a one-way ticket to the *Valley of the Dolls*. "I wanted to be Neely O'Hara so bad," said the San Francisco-born comic. "I was taking every kind of prescription drug, plus Ecstasy and a lot of K." And, like the character from Jacqueline Susann's potboiler, she washed down the pills with buckets of booze.

"I was thinking I should die of a drug overdose or alcoholism so that drag queens will dress up as me," Cho said. "I felt like such a failure in my life that I thought I could at least succeed to the point of being this tragic heroine."

The four-year downward spiral began with *All-American Girl*, a failed TV sitcom that tried to make her live up to its title while everything inside was rebelling against this white-bread fabrication. After all, this is the woman whose comedy routine included the observation that being fisted makes her feel like Kermit the Frog.

The rise and fall and rise of Margaret Cho is detailed in *I'm the One That I Want*, her off-Broadway hit that will arrive at the Warfield Theatre on Nov. 13. The one-woman performance is a major component in that latest rise, which has seen her reclaim her career, her dignity, and her happiness on her own terms.

"The show travels with me through my journey doing my television show and the resulting four-year depression," she said. "It was a really difficult experience, and it nearly destroyed me. But now I'm so glad I went through that because it taught me so much about how I should live my life."

Cho was a rising stand-up comic when, at 24, she was tapped to be the star of the country's first sitcom focusing on Asian-Americans. "The show had so much political baggage attached to it," she said. "It was a very charged and loaded experience."

## Crash and burn

There were complaints that the show was too Asian and that it was not Asian enough. The network also told Cho that they would be happier with a thinner leading lady, and a crash-diet fueled with diet pills landed her in the hospital.

"I was so insecure and so eaten up by this incredible machine," she said. "The only reason I think I survived was because I could realize that it was just ludicrous and ultimately hilarious. That's the part that I want to share."

Throughout the piece, Cho weaves in stories about growing up in San Francisco, her incredible Korean-born mother, and her affinity for gay men.

"There's a special place that straight women and gay men can

get to in a friendship," she said. "It's really a beautiful thing. I'm so glad I have that in my life." She's "a fag hag forever," she proudly declared.

"I was with this gay guy for, like, seven years, and we called each other husband and wife," Cho said. "We didn't have sex or anything, but were so close, and we literally had a divorce. It was really painful, and I thought I would never meet another gay man who would equal my first gay husband, and now I've found a new gay husband, and we're very happy."

In her act, Cho talks about a current straight boyfriend, but she admitted that he's a myth. "I've had them, of course, but I don't have one right now," she said. "They're okay. But I don't feel a lot of satisfaction in sex at the moment, so right now I would classify myself as nothing."

How about "queer?" "Oh, I'm absolutely queer," she said. "I'm 100 percent queer. I love that term, and I think it's such a strong and beautiful things to say and feel about yourself."

Her audiences include "a lot of gay men, a lot of lesbians, a lot of women, a lot of really smart people, a lot of people of color. Outsiders really have an affinity for me."

Audiences in San Francisco will be part of a feature film that Cho is making of her show.

"It's the place where I really wanted to commemorate this experience," she said. "This tour has



Lon Don

Margaret Cho in *I'm the One That I Want* at the Warfield

been enormously important for me professionally and personally, and this is a real homecoming. I feel like I coming home to who I am as a performer." ▼

Margaret Cho will perform *I'm the One That I Want* at 8 & 11 p.m. Nov. 13 at the Warfield. For tickets (\$25.50-\$32.50), call 478-BASS.

## For his honey

'Glory Box'

by Richard Dodds

Tim Miller is quick to share the secret of his shtick. Just a few moments into *Glory Box*, he breaks off a political harangue, telling the audience that it first must be softened up with some humor and good-natured nudity.

That his anger has been revealed as a dramatic tool makes it less threatening when it is finally evoked. And as convincingly wrought as Miller can be, we know he can snap into another mood in the flash of a light cue.

Yet if *Glory Box* follows the formula of such past Miller shows as *Shirts and Skin* and *My Queer Body*, there is a palpable passion that transcends the stage techniques. This time, Miller is fighting for his honey and his home.

Miller met Australian writer Alistair McCartney in 1994, and they have managed to live together in the United States by playing the visa game. But as the last options run out, Miller and McCartney face a choice of living in separate countries or moving to a land where their relationship would afford them the same domestic rights that heterosexuals take for granted.

Miller may rant and rave against America, but he makes it clear that he will only leave kicking and screaming if the nightmare scenario he weaves through the 65-minute piece comes to pass. He also shares childhood memories of wanting to marry other boys and the stresses that INS uncertainties have caused in the relationship he would most like to make into a marriage.

Though he can sometimes



Tim Miller in *Glory Box*

push too hard for evocative imagery, Miller more often than not comes up with potent word pictures. In describing his boyfriend, Miller says, "He has two swoops of hair on his forehead like a curtain parting on a hopeful second act." He describes how safe he feels nuzzling Alistair in the air since "an airplane is a homophobia demilitarized zone." And the Australian term "glory box" and its American equivalent "hope chest" provide obvious opportunities that Miller effectively mines.

This is only the second engagement for *Glory Box*, perhaps accounting for some of the serious word stumbles on opening night. But if moments were undermined, a potent message remained clear. Gay and lesbians in this country may feel they are free, but how they love can still be ruled by the color of a passport. ▼

*Glory Box* will run at the New Conservatory Theatre Center through Nov. 14. Tickets are \$16 and \$20. Call 861-8972.

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## Love train derails

Unmotivated histrionics are film's undoing

by Robert Julian

One of the blessings of contemporary French films is the remarkable equivalency granted to gay and straight relationships. And one of the curses of the genre is an inordinate fondness for melodrama in the depiction of familial relations. Both of these qualities are front and center in Patrice Chereau's *Those Who Love Me Can Take the Train*, a film that is essentially a two-hour riot of over-the-top histrionics.

Jean-Louis Trintignant, aging icon of French cinema, plays the deceased artist Jean Baptiste, as well as his surviving brother, Lucien. Jean Baptiste insists on burial in Limoges, thereby forcing his mourners to take the long train journey from Paris for his interment. The predominantly (but not exclusively) homosexual painter is remembered by lovers and relatives who pack two railroad cars for the journey through the countryside, sharing their emotional dysfunction with each other.

*Those Who Love Me* opens with the chaotic rush of passengers heading for the departing train and a voiceover narration by the deceased, ostensibly taken from an interview he gave before his death. Eric Gautier's cinematography heavily relies on hand-held camera movements and extreme close-ups, techniques that seem self-conscious and pretentious here. The screenplay by director Chereau, Daniele Thompson, and Pierre Trividie highlights emotional confrontation, but the precise relationships between the characters remain



Maïe Daems and Vincent Perez in *Those Who Love Me Can Take the Train*

unclear until the end of the film. With the central character already dead, and a large supporting cast whose roles are not well defined, it becomes difficult to identify with—or care about—the characters and what happens to them onscreen.

### Trysts and tranny

The first half of the film takes place on the train, and the second half in Limoges at the home of Lucien. The young Bruno (Sylvain Jacques) is HIV-positive. He had an affair with Francois (Pascal Greggory), the former lover of the deceased. But Bruno has a tryst on the train with Louis (Bruno Todeschini), Francois' current lover. This does not go down well. Meanwhile, Lucien resents the fact that his son was closer to the deceased than to his own father. But the need for the deceased to "adopt" Lucien's son as his own is

rationalized by the fact that the painter's own son is an attractive transsexual (played by the hunky Vincent Perez from *Indochine*). There is also a pregnant former junkie and an ancient doyenne thrown in for good measure, but the whole of the film becomes much less than the sum of its disparate parts.

It is possible that *Those Who Love Me* spoke more eloquently to a French audience than to an American one. It did win three Cesars (the French equivalent of the Oscar) for cinematography, screenplay, and best supporting actress. But most American viewers will be better served by waiting for a different French train. ▼

*Those Who Love Me Can Take the Train* opens Friday, November 12 at the Lumiere Theatre.

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# Sex overdrive

'Head On' opens at the Castro Theatre

by Gary Morris

**A**na Kokkinos' debut feature *Head On* was one of the more distinctive entries in this year's Lesbian and Gay Film Festival, not least because it threw out once and for all the foolish notion that women can't direct hot gay sex scenes. But *Head On* is more than the string of brutal anonymous sex encounters that litter the plot like so many used rubbers. The film is a superior exercise in generational angst — in this case, the angst-ridden youth is gorgeous 19-year-old Ari (Alex Dimitriades), a semi-closet case who spends his time snorting coke, getting blown by mostly ugly strangers (or blowing them), and trying to find a fit in a world that won't have him.

Ari's a double outsider, gay and a Greek living in Australia. His parents are fervid Greek nationalists and former radical activists who alternately coddle and berate him, unable to understand that their values don't mesh with his. Not that he's totally outside. His

conflict in this realm is one of the driving motifs here. In one of the film's best scenes, his gruff father lures him into a traditional Greek dance in the family kitchen, and Ari succumbs to his father's attention with a kind of sorrowful desperation — he's quite capable of connecting with his heritage, but only temporarily, almost ironically. Typically, the scene ends in a fight, with Ari attaching his trademark headphones, and storming away to quell his nervous rage with drugs or sex.

As sultry and seductive as Ari is, his taste in men will send some viewers screaming for the exit. True to his compulsions, he acts instantly on his libido with little discrimination in who's going to get him off. In one scene, that means making it with an unappetizing behemoth behind a warehouse. In another, he's cruised at a club by a troll who looks like a prehistoric Mormon elder. In a paroxysm of lust, he falls to his knees before said troll, who uses Ari's "sweet mouth" in a noisy back-alley blowjob.

Ari's relationship with his clos-

et is tentative, toying — he's constantly bringing up his own homosexuality in a mocking way, grabbing his friends' asses, insisting they all go to gay clubs, pressing on the closet door without quite daring to open it. The film makes clear that he can't relax into his own gayness; he's too fearful and driven for the kind of self-analysis that would require. The film also presents an intriguing drag queen, his friend Johnny aka Toulia (Paul Copsis), as a kind of moral yardstick Ari can never measure up to. Johnny travels in the same circles as Ari, and the two are obviously close, but Johnny's insistence on speaking out and living the way he wants only makes Ari more nervous. In a powerful scene, the two are picked up by the police, stripped, and assaulted by a racist white cop and his confused young Greek assistant, who's mortified by what he sees as the pair's repudiation of everything noble in



Alex Dimitriades in *Head On*

their heritage. And while Johnny, now the tranny Toulia, bears the brunt of their violence, she emerges morally unscathed; Ari gets a lesser beating but surrenders something precious.

The filigreeing of *Head On* with Greek cultural motifs gives the film a welcome density, and makes clear what Ari can never really be a part of. Like Ari, the director is both Greek and Australian, and she fleshes out the ghetto in which this group lives with panache.

Kokkinos' visual style is intense and arresting. She interpolates historical footage of Greek

immigrants coming to Australia, suggesting the hold the past, however distant, continues to have on a schizoid community. The jittery, often hand-held camera perfectly captures the chaos of their existence, particularly Ari's life.

The acting is fine throughout, but the high point is Dimitriades' brazen, no-holds-barred performance as Ari. Allegedly straight in real life, he's at his most forceful in the gay sex scenes, particularly in an extended vicious encounter with a blonde boytoy who lusts after him. Kokkinos pulls us inside his private chaos in such scenes. Voiceovers lifted directly from *Loaded*, the novel on which the film is based, evoke Ari's desperation and bare survival: "I'm sliding toward the sewer... I can smell the shit. But I'm still breathing." ▼

*Head On* plays the Castro Theatre November 11-18.

## Head On

◀ Arts cover

self-loathing on the two poofers.

The scene demonstrates Ari and Johnny's radically different views of being gay. "What Johnny is saying to Ari is, 'Look, I go out there and declare who I am,'" says Kokkinos. "Johnny feels that is the only way to be free, whereas Ari believes the opposite — the only way he can be free and defiant is to keep his secrets, never to reveal who he really is, because there could be drastic consequences. In the cop scene, Johnny is able to stand up to the cop, totally unafraid of what's about to happen to him. And in a lot of ways, the young 'wog' cop is put in a position where he sees Johnny and is ashamed of him. In a micro sense, the young Greek cop represents the ambivalent sort of relationship that Greek men have to their own masculinity, and the way in which they perceive women."

Kokkinos adds that while Ari feels bad about Johnny's beating by the cops, he also feels helpless to intervene. "What I'm presenting in the film is that there's complexity to these questions, and Ari is a bit of an anti-hero. He does stay true to himself by the end, but he's shaken by the experience as well. What I love about the Johnny/Toulia character is that he's challenging both Ari and everyone in the film."

As with her pioneering short, *Only The Brave*, Kokkinos tried with *Head On*, her first feature, to detonate some cutesy stereotypes and myths about the fun-loving Aussie culture. She feels that the world is less aware than it should be of the dark underside of racism and immigrant-bashing, as well as the ethnic self-loathing concealed by the success of hits like *Crocodile Dundee* and *Strictly Ballroom*. Specifically, Kokkinos and her co-screenwriters Mira Robertson and Andrew Bovell sought to take the nasty British racist slang word "wog" and deconstruct its meaning, in the same way African-Americans have sought proprietary use of the "N" word.

During his mad 24-hour odyssey through Melbourne, Ari leans out of his friend's car to curse



*Head On* director Ana Kokkinos

Islamic immigrants, calling them "wogs" who need to get over their idea that God is going to save them. Kokkinos insists that Ari is not being racist, but is merely reflecting the younger generation's view that the Old Country religious traditions oppress them and keep them from exercising their freedom. In fact, this complicated use of the word wog far exceeds poofers as *Head On*'s insult of choice.

The film is based on author Christos Tsiolkas' *Loaded*, which tells Ari's story by staying inside his head. The filmmakers were confronted with the considerable challenge of transforming the book's largely passive hero into a very hands-on sexy guy whom audiences would gleefully follow on a wild rollercoaster ride of amphetamine-driven quickie and sometimes violent sex, with pit stops for illegal card games, Greek folk dancing and fortune-telling. His best friend's mother tell Ari's fortune, and it's clear she sees a male face in the picture. Recovering her composure, she urges him to go out and get married so as to drive away whatever demons unbridled sodomy might attract.

In the end, love does track Ari down in the form of a nice white boy named Sean, whose deal-clincher is to tell Ari how much he reminds him of John Cusack in *The Grifters*. When this one night stand goes awry, all Ari can say is, "I'm sorry, I'm sorry, I'm sorry." Kokkinos says she was determined to give young fans of the film an open ending, while allowing older viewers to see that this ultimate sexy survivor may someday grow up. ▼

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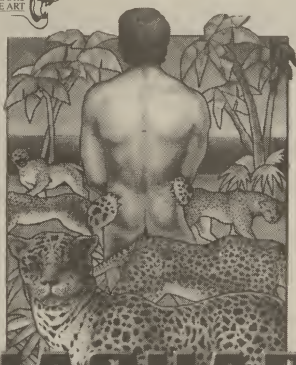
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## Toasted Almond

Marc Almond's life after Soft Cell

by John Blanco

When singer Marc Almond was younger, he thought the tragic lives of Elvis Presley, Judy Garland, Edith Piaf and others of his musical idols seemed terribly glamorous. In his eyes, mental instability, substance abuse and slit wrists only added to the allure of a mesmerizing pop figure. But Almond found he could no longer romanticize despair and self-destructiveness when they became part of his own life.

"I may look small, but I'm quite a strong, tough person, and even then, the period from the mid-'80s through the mid-'90s almost finished me off," the British singer says in a telephone interview from New York, where he performed a couple of shows in September. "I was nearly bankrupt. I nearly lost all my friends. I nearly lost my life on two or three different occasions."

The cause of all his troubles — an addiction to drugs and alcohol — is so predictable, such a rock-star cliché, that Almond seems a little embarrassed even to talk about it. The addictions began with the rise of his hugely, albeit briefly, successful New Wave band Soft Cell in the early '80s, and continued well into his respected subsequent solo career. The title of the 1983 Soft Cell album, *The Art of Falling Apart*,



Marc Almond

was prescient, given Almond's ability to remain creative and functional in the midst of a drug-fueled breakdown.

"My life was going to pieces, but I managed to keep it all together by a thread," explains Almond, "so that even as I was falling apart inside, I was still getting up there and singing. I became great at putting on all kinds of masks and all kinds of fronts."

After a couple of suicide attempts and countless bouts of severe depression, Almond finally checked himself into a drug-and-alcohol rehabilitation clinic in the mid-'90s. The 41-year-old singer writes about rehab and many other painful episodes in his life in an autobiography due out early next year, *Tainted Life*, the title of which is a rather obvious play on the name of Soft Cell's biggest hit, "Tainted Love." While he says writing the book was cathartic, Almond insists he would never write a memoir solely as a means of therapy.

"I think it's always going to be therapeutic to write about your life, but at the same time you have to remember you're writing for other people," says the singer. "I want to be entertaining. I'm writing for fans who might want to know about all the different albums I've done, and what I was going through at the time of those albums."

"You know, it's not all about my personal troubles. A large part of the book is really a journey through the record business by someone who's been on lots of different labels, who's always been

at odds with the music business swells. It's about the whole bizarre absurdity of it all, the nonsense you have to put up with when you become part of that world."

### 'Too gay'

Just some of the nonsense Almond had to put up with early in his career were the efforts of record company executives to keep the always-out performer, who rarely took the stage in the '80s without wearing a smear of lipstick and gobs of eyeliner, from acting "too gay." Even harder to take than the admonishments of homophobic execs was the flak Almond got from certain gay critics. British scribe John Gill, for instance, once wrote that the singer "insisted on encoding the queerness (of his music) in a hammy drag act, part Garland, part Piaf, part Ida Lupino in the final reels of *High Sierra*." In his book *Queer Noises*, Gill recalls that Almond's response to his comments was to send the writer a package containing a gay porn magazine, a small pack of tissues and a slab of raw liver.

The Garland comparison was actually quite flattering to Almond, who included the tribute "Saint Judy" on his 1987 album *Mother Fist...and her Five Daughters*. That's just one example of the queer themes and iconography that can be found on his 20 or so solo recordings, which, not surprisingly, have been much more successful in Britain and Europe than in the U.S.

The Brits particularly took to a duet he sang with reedy-voiced veteran crooner Gene Pitney on the love song "Something's Got a Hold of My Heart." Almond and Pitney — an unexpectedly sexy vocal pairing — topped the British charts with the tune in 1989.

Almond offers more conventional duets with former Sneaker Pimps vocalist Kelly Ali and former Banshees/current Creatures vocalist Siouxsie Sioux on his latest CD, *Open All Night*. But neither guest vocalist sounds as in their element with the album's languid torch songs as does the smoky-voiced Almond. These are the kind of dark cabaret numbers that he performed on some of his earliest solo records, but on *Open All Night* he's given them a stark, electronic setting.

Almond says the CD is really just a melange of the kind of music he's been listening to lately. "I've been digging back into my record collection and playing Nina Simone and Sinatra and Billie Holiday and Peggy Lee, so there's a whole jazz and blues feel on the new record. But at the same time I was listening to a lot of late-night, sort of trip-hop music, things like Tricky and Portishead. I found that the slowed-down, smoky beats of trip-hop were the perfect musical

next page ►



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## FILM

# Attitude to the tits

by Gary Morris

Riot girls have a long and noble history that extends far back beyond Hole and Courtney Love. No doubt the experts in this realm can trace the lineage to some ancient Greek island or Neanderthal cave, but for those who haven't kept up with riot girl archaeology, the 1950s and '60s was certainly a rich period for the phenomenon. Between Roger Corman and Ed Wood and a slew of forgotten auteurs, there were enough girl gangs, vicious debutantes, quasi-lesbian teen killers, and other such cinematic renegades to terrorize many a suburban parent and enchant misfit adolescent girls throughout the land.

A fascinating oddity of the genre is having a brief revival as part of the Yerba Buena Center for the Art's "Retro Cult Classics" series. Lou Adler's *Ladies and Gentlemen, the Fabulous Stains* (1982), unlike most riot girl movies, was made for a major studio, Paramount. But the execs were so unimpressed by the film's strange tone that they refused to release it. This consigned *Stains* to a footnote in film history and ended Adler's movie career — never prolific (his only previous credit was Cheech and Chong's *Up in Smoke*), he never directed again.

That said, *Stains* deserves no-

tice first and foremost as a welcome respite from all those mush-brained John Hughes teen epics of the '80s. The fabulous Diane Lane plays Corinne Burns, a sexy, angst-ridden teen who's ready to take out her anxiety on an unsuspecting world. With a couple of her mates — including a lanky young Laura Dern — she forms a rock group without bothering to learn how to sing or play. The *Stains* get their first taste of success tagging along with a busload of fading rockers — the has-been Metal Corpses, and a British band composed of ex-Sex Pistols Paul Cook and Steve Jones and Clash bassist Paul Simonon. In the inexplicable way such things happen, Corinne and her pals leapfrog the men and become overnight stars, in spite of sounding much like the early Shaggs.

The *Stains'* lack of talent is no stumbling block to success; in this insular world, attitude is all, and Corinne has it to the tits. Like the Monkees or the Archies, she and her group are calculated fabrications, but in this case they're their own creations. Clever Corinne pioneers an apparently unforgettable look — "skunk" hairdo, lightning eye makeup, little black lace panties — and follows up the image by verbally assaulting her audience and droning songs with too apt titles like "I'm a Waste of Time." She energizes what looks like an army of teen girls, who be-

come clones of her right down to the hair and panties and duplicitous mantra "We don't put out!"

## Piggyback ride

This ambitious riot girl's rise takes place on the back of her boyfriend, hunky Brit Billy (Ray Winstone), whose punk style and playlist she gleefully appropriates. Of course, fame is fickle, and poor Corinne is eventually exposed as a fraud, ripped off by her manager, attacked by her audience, rejected by Billy, and booted out of the business. In a fabulously weird ending that looks like it was tacked on to impress Paramount and perhaps save the film, the group is seen in resurrection, performing what looks like years later on a cynical MTV-like video.

The tone of the film is sometimes hokey and often bitter, with director Adler taking potshots at a number of targets. With the Metal Corpses, led by the Tubes' Fee Waybill, he skewers those wretched old rockers who continue to play long after they've lost their spark. He hits the media in droll scenes of two newscasters arguing the merits of the *Stains*. Most merciless is the film's take on the music industry. In Adler's view, everyone's a fake, from the self-absorbed rockers to fickle audiences to conniving manager to Corinne herself.

There's lots of good pop/punk music — not surprising, given



A scene from *Ladies and Gentlemen, the Fabulous Stains*

Adler's prominence as a music producer. And the acting is solid throughout, particularly the energetic Ray Winstone as Corinne's violent boyfriend, and Fee Waybill doing a dead-on impression of a ridiculously egotistical old fool dressed in spandex and Kiss eye shadow. Diane Lane wraps it up with her expert portrayal of Corinne, a wonderfully pouty, bitchy performance that puts her in the upper tier of the riot girl canon. ▼

*Ladies and Gentlemen, the Fabulous Stains* plays Fri. and Sat., Nov. 12-13, 8 & 10 p.m., at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 701 Mission St. For tickets, call 978-ARTS.

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## Marc Almond

◀ previous page

setting for the kind of jazz and blues songs I was writing."

As you might gather from the title, the music on *Open All Night* is meant to evoke the mood and atmosphere of a club in the wee hours of the morning. "If I had my own personal after-hours nightclub, this would be the soundtrack," explains Almond. "It would be the kind of place where you'd go to meet a friend or find a

lover or just spend some time. It would be a warm and intimate, slightly bohemian place, all in red velvet and smoke, with crackling neon above the door."

It's clear that Almond, however newly clean and sober he may be, is still something of a club-crawler. The singer says he particularly likes going to out-of-the-way nightspots in strange cities, where he can be anonymous and observe the people and surroundings that often find their way into his songs. If his schedule permits, he looks for-

ward to exploring a few clubs while he's in San Francisco, but he does have one request of any potential tour guides.

"People always want to take me to the glamorous places where you can be seen," complains Almond. "But I'd rather go to the kind of places where you can't be seen. They're much more interesting." ▼

Marc Almond performs Nov. 13 and 14 at 9 p.m. at Bimbo's. Call 474-0365 for information.



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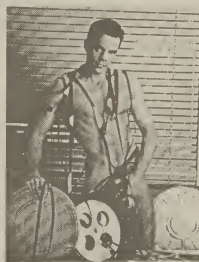
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# OUT & ABOUT



Torch singer Wesla Whitfield gets romantic with Michael Moore and Mike Greensill at the Plush Room. See Wednesday.

## Calendare by Mark Mardon

### History lessons

First there was "Creating Our History," then "Defending Our History," and now "Surviving Our History," a trio of programs perfect for millennial introspection, in which panelists and audience members addressed (and will continue to address this Saturday, November 13 at the San Francisco Main Library) the topic, "Queer at the End of the Century: Bay Area Conversations About Gender, Race and Class."

First came a look at our queer creation stories, but ours was never exactly a Garden of Eden. Perhaps our seeds were sown shortly after the Big Bang, but ever since then, history texts have had a way of grossly distorting things. Sorting out the mess and writing something with some degree of accuracy takes special dedication and much discussion. So Susan Stryker, executive director of the Gay & Lesbian Historical Society of Northern California and a Social Science Research Council Post-Doctoral Fellow in Sexuality Studies at Stanford, took on the task of raising the issues, getting panelists to focus on how the queer community is portrayed in traditional history texts, how those resources are being re-examined, and how new insights and research are reshaping the way our history is being written.

Next came a panel of psychologists and educators examining the forces that shape anti-gay hostility and violence. They discussed the form and nature of discrimination, outlined the community's response to violence, and considered how our increased visibility has heightened the public's awareness of the reality of homophobia. Let there be no mistake: unless our historians, researchers, politicians, activists and others make concerted attempts at promulgating accurate accounts of our struggle for equal rights, the enemies of openness will turn history to their own wicked ends. To win our rights, panelists such as these help to safeguard our history, lest it be wrested away from us and twisted into knots.

Now comes the final segment in the series, in which Kate Kendell, executive director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights, moderates a panel on our community's response to issues of life and death. She, along with Barbara Brenner of Breast Cancer Action and Ernest Hopkins of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, will consider how the realities of coping with AIDS and breast cancer have shaped our community. Have these struggles generated more interest among us in creating family units and raising children? How successful can queer families be in the face of widespread indifference and hostility? And how have we become stronger as a result of our struggles?

Our history is not written in stone, but ever evolving as we gain perspective on our lives. We ignore it at our peril. Only by taking an active part in discussing these issues can we hope to be understood by future generations, whether queer or straight. ▼

"Surviving Our History," moderated by Kate Kendell, takes place free at the Main Library on Saturday, November 13 at 4 p.m. For more information, phone 437-4853.



Kate Kendell will lead the panel "Surviving Our History."

## Fri 12

### SF Arts Commission Gallery

Opening reception: "Nightfall," media installations by Michael Light ("Blue Fall"), Debra Bloomfield, Christopher Geron, Mary Tsongas, and Ian Pollock and Janet Silk. Curated by Rupert Jenkins. Free. 6-8pm. 401 Van Ness Ave. (at McAllister). 554-6080.

### Space 743

Opening reception: "Summer Darkness, Winter Light," small works by David Maxim. Free. 6-8pm. 743 Harrison St. 777-9080.

### Magic Theatre

The third-year students of the A.C.T. Master of Fine Arts Program present Frank Wedekind's "Spring Awakening." It explores the horrific impact of paternal authoritarianism on sexually maturing German youth. \$10 (\$5 students, seniors). 8pm. Also on 11/13, 15, 17, 18 & 20. Fort Mason, Bldg. D, 3rd floor. Tix: 749-2421.

### Theatre Rhinoceros

Marga Gomez premieres her latest solo comedy, "jaywalker," the surreal and illegal adventures of a Latina pedestrian in Hollywood, competing for fame against Jennifer Lopez and Chihuahua. She wants to play the first lesbian on Baywatch. \$20. Thru Dec. 12. 8pm (7pm Sun.). 2926 16th St. 861-5079.

### New Conservatory Theatre Center

Tim Miller performs "Glory Box," a charged exploration of the challenge of love, queer marriage, and the struggle for immigration rights for gay people and their partners. \$20. 8pm. Thru 11/14. 25 Van Ness Ave., lower lobby. Tix: 861-8972.

### Diego Rivera Theatre, City College

"Festival of American Playwrights of Color II," featuring eight one-act plays. \$10. 8pm. Fri. & Sat. thru 11/13, plus 2pm matinee on Sun., 11/14. Info: 239-3132, ext. 1.

### ODC Theater

Choreographer Deborah Slater Dance Theater performs "Forgiveness and Other True Fiction." Score by David Allen; staging and lighting by Jack Carpenter. A celebration of Art of the Matter's 10th anniversary season. \$15 (\$12 students/seniors). 8pm. Thru 11/20. 3153 17th St. (at Shotwell). 863-9834.

### A Different Light

Rhea Murray reads from *A Journey to Mariah*, the true gripping story of a mother's coming to terms with her gay son in small-town America. Free. 7:30pm. 489 Castro St.

### 550 Barneveld

KUSF Radio 90.3 FM presents an "Elektronik Musik Showcase," a giant dance party featuring performers from a few of the station's favorite programs. With artists from Thump Radio, Future Breaks, Space Program X2-9, and Friday Night Sessions. Live performances by ETI and Cosmic Selector; spinning by Miss E, Dutch, Felix the Dog, Gabe Real, Push, Dr. Fugu Fish, and DJ Atafocus. Out of this world. 10pm-6am. 21+w/D.

### 1015 Folsom

"Nikita," high-energy dance grooves with special guest DJ Jon Bishop of San Diego and resident DJs Simon, Jen, Taj, and Troy Roberts. Five dance floors with house, techno, trance, and drum & bass. Resident DJs for the drum & bass are Kayar, Kaos and Siren. \$10 (free b4 10:30pm). 10pm-6am. 21+w/D. Info: 267-0568.

## Sat 13

### Jon Sims Center

"Tim's Magic Lantern Show," a solo, lo-tech, lo-fi, multimedia performance including films, music, spoken word and puppets. \$6-\$10 sliding. Every Sat. night in Nov. The Jon Sims Center for the Performing Arts, 1519 Mission St. (near S. Van Ness).

### A Different Light

Recording artist Randy Walker will be on hand to promote his new CD, *Daylight Never Exposed So Total a Ruin*. The style ranges from gospel to honky-tonk, with confessional storytelling and lots of rabble-rousing. Free. 7:30pm. A Different Light Bookstore, 489 Castro St. 431-0891.

### Grupo Socio Cultural Hispano

This social group for all Spanish-speaking Bay Area gay men and their friends hosts "Fiesta de Thanksgiving," a potluck near Golden Gate Park. For details, call Juan Carlos at 863-7087.

### Montclair Women's Cultural Arts Club, Oakland

Gospel-blues vocalist Barbara Higbie and composer, pianist and violinist Teresa Trull perform. \$20 advance; \$23 door. 7:30pm. 1650 Mountain Blvd., Oakland. Tix: (510) 339-1832.

### Fort Mason Center

"Afribebe '99 Music & Cultural Festival," a showcase of cultural diversity in a fun, festive format. Main Stage entertainment by international artists such as Krosfyah from Barbados, Prince Eyango from Cameroon, and groups from Nigeria, Cuba, Brazil, the Bay Area and elsewhere. Bring



Mezzo-soprano Sylvie Braitman sings Yiddish and Ladino folk and art songs at A Traveling Jewish Theatre. See Wednesday.

drums for the Community Drum Circles. Enjoy the Carnival, Digital Village, and the Learning Tree Stage. \$10 (\$14 for two days). Also on Sun., 11/14. 11am-10pm both days. Herbst & Festival Pavilions.

### Trinity Episcopal Church

Fools Fury presents "Jacques and His Master," Milan Kundera's adaptation of Denis Diderot's 18th-century novel *Jacques le Fataliste*. It explores the romantic adventures of Jacques, an opinionated, outspoken servant and his naive, tenderhearted master. Directed by Ben Yalom. \$10-\$18 sliding. 8:30pm (7pm Sun.). Thru Dec. 5. The Next Stage at Trinity Episcopal Church, Gough at Bush. Tix/Info: 248-1918.

### ATA Gallery

Other Cinema presents a program of collage and puppet animation films, including the works of Martha Colburn. Cartoon door-prizes and plenty of hot Pop-Tarts. \$5. 8:30pm. Artists' Television Access, 992 Valencia St. 824-3890.

## Sun 14

### GAPA Coronation Ball 1999

Mr. & Miss GAPA (Gay Asian Pacific Alliance) 1999 Mark daBoto and Holly Peña make their first official appearance at this festivity. Featuring an eight-course Chinese banquet, entertainment by the GAPA Dance Company, and a Money Dance to benefit GAPA's scholarship and cultural programs. \$18 advance; \$20 door. 6-7pm reception; 7pm dinner. Canton Restaurant, 655 Folsom St. Info: 282-GAPA.

### Sundance Saloon

Country-western vocalist Jeff Miller performs his mix of familiar popular country music, original songs, and deadly country music parodies. Presented by the Sundance Association for Country-Western Dancing. \$7. 8pm & 9pm. 21+w/D. 174 King St. (near 3rd). 699-5764.

### PFLAG/St. Francis Church

Author Rhea Murray (*A Journey to Mariah*) will relate her experiences as founder of the Seymour, Indiana PFLAG chapter where she fought bigotry and prejudice when her gay, teenage son was outed in their community by the church pastor. Free. 3-4pm (preceded by PFLAG support group, 2-3pm; all welcome). 152 Church St. (near Market). Info: 921-8850.

### A Different Light

Two events: First, at 3:30pm, Catherine Lake, editor of *(Re)creations: Religion and Spirituality in the Lives of Queer People*, introduces a reading by contributors Toby Johnson, Aswad, Alina Ever, Mordecai Drache, Connell O'Donovan and others. Second, at 7:30pm, poet G. Winston James reads from *Lyric: Poems Along a Broken Road*, a collection from a member of the Other Countries African American gay male writing group in New York. Free. A Different Light Bookstore, 489 Castro St. 431-0891.

### Headlands Center for the Arts, Sausalito

Double bill: Joe Goode and members of his dance performance group will present selections from the company's repertoire, including "Gender Heroes — Part I," an exploration of gender construction, and John Malpede presents "Get," a satirical look at today's globalizing economy. \$7 (\$5 seniors, students). 4pm. 944 Fort Barry, Sausalito. Info: 331-2787.

### 111 Minna Street,

The San Francisco Late Night Coalition presents "Bikini Line: Wax for a Good Cause." Find crates of records from many hard-to-find Bay Area DJs. A fine Sunday evening groove, and your chance to go diggin' through the crates of DJs from all over the spectrum of Bay Area DJ Culture. 1000s of records will be there for the sifting, and the tastier gems will be auctioned off. \$3. 5pm-12am. Info: 820-3219.

## Mon 15

### Metropolitan Community Church

MCC's Queers & Color series presents *Rice and Potatoes*. Rice: Slang for





View the work of Alain Fleischer at the opening of *The Frozen Wave* at Haines Gallery. See Thursday.

gay Asians. Potatoes: Slang for gay Caucasians. Filmed in SF, the documentary takes a candid look at interracial gay relationships. Filmmaker Todd Wilson will be on hand for a post-screening discussion. Free (donations welcome). 7pm. 150 Eureka St. Info: 865-2743.

#### Josie's

Josie's hosts its regular Monday "Open Mic Gay Comedy" night. Laughter abounds. \$5. 8pm. 16th St. at Market. No reservations required.

#### 26mix Soundbar

"Beatbox," a phat new bi-weekly party with groovy ghetto bumpin' beats. With DJs Chip McClure (Sugar, Earth, Faith), David Michael (Spundae/Nikita), Joseph Lee (Earth), David Michael (Spundae/Nikita), and others. High quality sound system. Visual art. \$4. 21+ w/d. 3026 Mission St. (at 26th). Info: 248-1319.

#### The Top

"HouseBlends," a special brew of house with DJs Mes, Bloom, Tune, Neil, Abdul, Conrad, and friends (Weekly Rotation). Free before 10pm (spend Happy Hour with HouseBlends, 7pm-10pm). 10pm-2am. 21+ w/d. 424 Haight St. Info: 273-1308.

## Tue 16

#### Theatre Rhinoceros

"Viva Variety V," an old-style variety show highlighting queer talent, hosted by Steve Murray. Featuring comedian Marga Gomez, VV regular Matthew Simmons (aka Peggy L' Eggs), J-Bird Hosch and the Kountry K's, Paul Gallo fashions, keyboardist Geno Valle, the cast of Karen Carpenter Christmas, and playwright Doug Holsclaw. A benefit for Breast Cancer Action. \$15. 8pm. Info: 863-0741.

#### Magic Theatre

The third-year students of the A.C.T. Master of Fine Arts Program present Ferdinand Bruckner's "Pains of Youth," the story of a circle of decadent Viennese medical students in 1923 who, in their search for the meaning of life, plunge into sexual experimentation and corruption. \$10 (\$5 students, seniors). 8pm. Also on 11/19. Fort Mason, Building D, third floor. Tix: 749-2ACT.

#### Eros

"Taboo Things: Men of Color on Off Color Subjects," a series of workshops targeted at men who have sex with men. Frank and open discussions of the who, what's, whys and sometimes hows of the sex we have. Tonight's topic: "Sniffin' It, Droppin' It, Takin' It: Club Drugs and Taboo."

7:30-9pm. 2051 Market St. (at Church).

#### Integral Yoga Institute

"Laughing Meditation Workshop." This fun session involves some Hatha Yoga poses followed by extended conscious laughter and ending with a silent meditation. Dress in loose, comfortable clothes, bring a towel, and expect to have a wonderful time. Taught by Dee Benefield. \$8. 6-7:30pm. 770 Dolores St. 821-1117.

## Wed 17

#### ATA Gallery

Queer Odd Wednesdays presents Frameline's Marlon Riggs collection. Included in the screening will be *Tongues Untied*, *Non Je Regrette Rien* (No Regret), and *Affirmations* and *Anthem*. Open Screen to follow; works in progress or those which challenge mainstream media conventions are always encouraged. Bring yer damn tape. \$5. 8pm. 992 Valencia St. (at 21st St.)

#### Metropolitan Community Church

Literary giant Gore Vidal makes a special appearance to speak and sign copies of his book, *Sexually Speaking*. Co-sponsored by A Different Light Bookstore. Free. 12 noon. 150 Eureka St. 431-0891.

#### New Conservatory Theatre Center

Preview: "Dream Boy," adapted by



Mr. and Miss GAPA, Mark daBoto and Holly Peño, go for the glitter at Coronation Ball 1999. See Sunday.

Eric Rosen from the book by Jim Grimsley; directed by Dan Oliverio. It recounts the story of a painful first love between two adolescent boys sustaining each other in a world of domestic disintegration. A tale of boundless hope. \$13 for previews (thru 11/19; regular run opens 11/20). 8pm. 25 Van Ness Ave., lower lobby. Tix: 861-8972.

#### A Different Light

R.D. Zimmerman reads from *Innuendo*, the fourth Todd Mills mystery. It finds the TV-anchor-turned-sleuth embroiled in yet another murder to keep you on the edge of your seat. Free. 7:30pm. A Different Light Bookstore, 489 Castro St. 431-0891.

#### A Traveling Jewish Theatre

Jewish Music Wednesdays continues its third season with mezzo-soprano Sylvie Brautman performing Yiddish and Ladino folk and art songs. Accompanied on piano by Michael Grossman. \$12. 8pm. 470 Florida St. (btwn. 17th & Mariposa). Tix: 399-1809.

#### Plush Room

Jazz/cabaret song stylist Wesla Whitfield appears in "I'm In the Mood For Love," with musical director/pianist Mike Greensill and bassist Ken Miller. From "Don't Blame Me" to "I Can't Believe That You're In Love With Me," she sings the standards of Jimmy McHugh. A romantic evening. \$20 (\$25 Fri. & Sat.). 8pm (3pm Sun.). York Hotel, 940 Sutter St. 885-2800.

## Thu 18

#### Haines Gallery

Opening reception: "Details," featuring artwork by J.D. Beltran, and "The Frozen Wave," an exhibition by Alain Fleischer made possible by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Free. 5:30-7:30pm. 49 Geary St. 397-8114.

#### California Contemporary Craft Association

Opening reception: "California Design," 100 works by California's fine craft designers. A juried exhibition of furniture and decorative objects. 6-8pm. 600 Townsend St. 458-3535.

#### Theater Artaud

Micaya presents the "1st Annual San Francisco Hip Hop Dance Fest," featuring the best in West Coast Hip Hop artists. \$14 & \$16. 8pm. Thru 11/21. 450 Florida St. Tix: 621-7797.

#### New Meat Campus Theater

Weekly LGBT VideoFest, featuring short films by queer artists, co-presented by Turbulent Arts. From daring to wacky, X-rated to emotionally charged. Tonight: Mark Ewert and David Cutler's drag characters introduce a program featuring installments from Rene Broussard's *The Fat Boy Chronicles*. The New Orleans filmmaker uses archival footage of eroticized fat little boys to trace events leading to the self-acceptance of his own fat body and small penis. Also: Wash Westmoreland's *Squishy Does Porno*, plus experimental works by Greg Sax, Vicki Funari, and Kadet Kuhne. \$10 (all-day pass; includes lots of male sex entertainment). 8pm. 220 Jones St. Info: 673-3384.

#### City Nights

"Club Faith," a mostly bi/gay dance space for boys and girls, featuring hip-hop, house and progressive vibes provided by DJs Blackstone, Jay-R, Ruben Mancias, and weekly guests. If you have a closed mind this club will leave you behind! \$10. 9:30pm-3am. 18+ w/d. 715 Harrison St.

## WANNA SUBMIT?

Send your calendar event listings to:

Mark Mardon  
Out & About  
Bay Area Reporter  
395 Ninth Street  
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Deadline is the Friday before issue date.

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BAY AREA REPORTER

### The Lawrence Pech Dance Company

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Wendy Van Dyck, Lawrence Pech  
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# Foxes in the desert

by Mister Marcus

Thousands of people from throughout California converged on Palm Springs over the past weekend to participate in that community's Gay Pride festivities and the Mr. Palm Springs Leather 2000 contest. The weather was ideal; the bars, restaurants and hostilities were jam packed, and the hour-long parade down the main drag was well received.

San Francisco Supervisor Mark Leno was perched all alone on a "No on the Knight Initiative" float; Donna Sachet and Bob Brunson managed to get on a float. The 2000 Bare Chest Calendar boys were featured en masse on a float, and one of them won a Mr. Hump contest at one of the town's discos. International Ms. Leather Pam Meyer flew in just in time to be a buddy rider in the Dykes on Bikes contingent that led off the parade.

Later Sunday night, the BCC guys autographed and sold calendars at the newly redecorated Wolf's Den, a classic piece of work by Mr. Marcus — er, that's Alex Marcus of New Paltz, New York. He has transformed the place so fabulously, it has taken hold as the most popular leather bar in Palm Springs.

The Palm Springs Leather Order of the Desert (PSLOD) staged their leather event with a meet & greet on Friday night at the Tool Shed. Saturday night, the contest took place at the International Club with a big crowd on hand to see Shann Carr emcee the event.

Six contestants took part: Chris Chaput, Tracy Deroche, Larry Giordano, Chev Kevom, Buddy Larue (also Mr. New Mexico Leather '95) and Leo Marchetti.

Among the judges were Brian Dawson, Taurus Webster, Ed Keller, Mistress Katrina and two others whose names I didn't get.

Int'l. Mr. Leather Tony Mills gave another of his inspiring speeches, and outgunning Mr. Palm Springs Leather Dale Breunig was eloquent in his thanks for the support he got with the title and the inspiration his community gave him to do a thoroughly excellent job.



Mr. Palm Spring Leather winners, left to right: 1st runner-up Tracy DeRoche, Mr. Palm Springs Leather 2000 Chris Chaput, and 2nd runner-up Leo Marchetti, last Saturday, November 6 in Palm Springs.

While the contest got off to a late start, it moved along with little delay, and by 2130, the results were in. The second runner-up was Leo Marchetti; the first runner-up was Tracy Deroche.

The new Mr. Palm Springs Leather 2000 is Chris Chaput.

Chris will celebrate his 39th birthday three days before Christmas. He's into computers, the gym, antiques and obtaining the best authority figure available. Chris led the leather contingent in the pride parade the next day and garnered tremendous applause.

While all this was going on, in San Diego, details are sketchy, but our Int'l. Ms. Leather Pam Meyer was there to help judge four

women vying for Ms. San Diego Leather, the spot vacated by Suzy Koenig. The candidates were Dorothy Blake, Jo Blas, Dawn Levy and Deborah Levois. When it was all over, Dorothy "Doe" Blake became the new Ms. San Diego Leather. She will compete for the big one in Toronto next July. Good reports were heard about the whole event. Thanks Suzy for a good year!

## Dividing the proceeds

Warm feelings and fond memories have not faded yet from the Dore Alley Fair last July and the Folsom Street Fair at the end of September. While a lot of people are very upset with Mike Zuhl for taking the International Mr. Drummer contest away from San Francisco, this Thursday night,

next page ►

## EVENTURES IN LEATHER

### Thursday, November 11

Mr. SF Leather Werner Tillinger presents a Veteran's Day military uniform beer/soda bust, from 2000-2300, at the Edge, for just \$6 including rafles and prizes. SMMILE presents checks to the beneficiaries of the net proceeds from the Dore Alley Fair and the Folsom Street Fair.

### Weekend, November 12-14

Leather contests in the several US cities and in Ottawa, Canada (see above).

The Cal Eagles MC take over the Triple R for their overnigher in Guerneville.

### Friday, November 12

The Jeff Miller Show at River Business in Guerneville, at 2230 and again at 2330. And get this, Turkey Bowling! You throw frozen turkey at the pins. Bob Brunson is too much!

### Saturday, November 13

Bay Area Submissives (BAs) launches today, from 1300-1500, at 16 Divisadero. Call 487-9769 or email: SFLthrbay17@aol.com.

Florida Leather Daddy contest at the Full Moon

Saloon tonight. What's notable about this one is that former SF Leather Daddy X Irwin Kane is competing.

Constantines MC beer/soda bust at the Lone Star Saloon, 1500-1900, for only \$7, with \$2 Connie Dogs. Charlie Pacheco entertains.

### Sunday, November 14

Sundance Saloon at 174 King St. presents the Jeff Miller Show for \$7 with two shows, one at 2000 and again at 2130.

Leather Daddy Andre and Daddy's Boy Lance Leather Pantry 3 beer/soda bust from 1600-1900 at Daddy's, with entertainment by TJ and Sheba.

Garage sale of Hal Heller's leathers and toys at 1346 Guerrero, from 1200-1700.

Mr. SF Bear Contest at the Lone Star, with a \$7 beer/soda bust, the contest to benefit PosRes-Center.

### Wednesday, November 17

Underwear Buddies at 933 Harrison. Leathermen's Discussion Group at Club Eros, 1930. Subject: Power, Surrender & Intimacy, an Experiential Tantric Approach to SM by Harry Faddis, BD.



# Laughing Pan: James Broughton

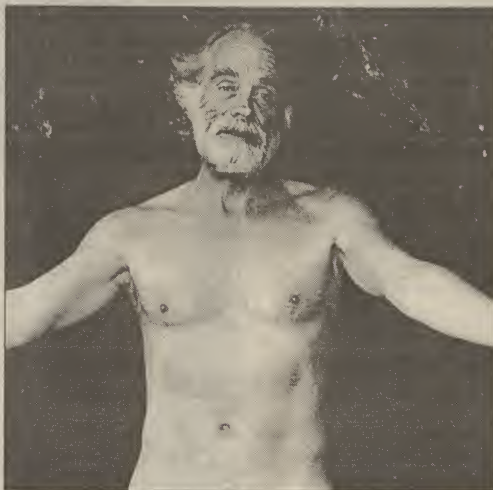
by Gary Morris

Every movement has its muses. James Broughton probably would have copped to being a muse, or perhaps more accurately, a kind of smiling spirit guide to pleasurable realms beyond the none. It's less likely he would have considered himself a leader of any movement. That in spite of the fact that by all accounts the West Coast experimental film scene was mostly his creation with two short films, *The Potted Psalm* (1946) and *Mother's Day* (1948). Broughton is simply too individual for categorization, even when the evidence for labeling him thus and such is overwhelming. But the lure of labels is too strong, so for the sake of shorthand, and with apologies to Broughton, we'll call him a combination of poet, avant-garde film artist, and Dionysian gay sage.

Broughton, born in Modesto, was 85 when he died in May, and the SF Cinematheque is celebrating his legacy with *Homage to James Broughton: Ecstasy for Everyone*. This irresistible sampler starts with his beginnings with *Mother's Day*, then moves into what for many fans is his most fruitful period, from the late '60s to the early '80s.

*Mother's Day* opens with a typically startling image, a send-up of the Pietà with a hapless man being cradled by a statue, one of a multiplicity of strange "mothers" in the film. Broughton's playful attitude toward maturity and adulthood is evident immediately — this anti-tribute to Mother envisions Father as mostly a face in a frame, staring dourly; and the children as childlike adults, mindlessly playing hopscotch, shooting squirt guns, and fascinated by a spinning mandolin. The film uses titles in a mocking manner redolent of silent movies: "Mother was the loveliest woman in the world. And Mother wanted everything to be lovely." *Mother's Day* has jarring undertones in its bizarre images of ruined buildings and inscrutable characters, but Broughton would take its motif of the child-man (and child-woman) and expand it to rhapsodic effect in his later work.

Broughton was apparently mostly busy in the 1950s and '60s with his poetry, but returned to filmmaking in 1968 with the fanciful *The Bed*. The film's central image is arresting and hilariously absurd — an empty bed is travel-



Poet, film artist and gay sage James Broughton

ing leisurely down a hill as if it were a car. Eventually it settles in a meadow and becomes the locus of all manner of strange scenarios and woodland trysts. Characters — mostly naked — appear suddenly on its sheets. Broughton pops in as a kind of laughing Pan, sitting nude in a tree serenading a series of revelers. He ridicules conventional rituals when a woman arrives and officiously begins making up the bed. More typical, though, are the polymorphous pleasures of wriggling bodies apparently liberated by the bed. Broughton brings nature in harmony with humanity in odd and intriguing ways, as when a woman in close-up encounters a spider and reaches out to kiss it. In another scene, a live lizard appears to slither out of a man's mouth.

Broughton's poetic skills are often highlighted in the films; such is the case in one of his boldest efforts, *Song of the Godbody* (1977). Here a male body — no doubt the filmmaker's own, as it is featured in so much of his work — is shown in closeup, a kind of landscape of flesh that the camera lovingly surveys. Broughton's beatific words accompany this exploration: "This is my body, which speaks for itself. This is my body, which sings of itself." The comparisons to Whitman are inevitable, and Broughton is in a real sense Whitman's heir, celebrating the male body and male bonding unabashedly, and going further than Whitman in ways made possible in part by Broughton's appearance

in the world decades later. What Whitman said, Broughton can say and show.

*The Gardener of Eden* (1981) is a brief document of his "honeymoon" with lover and frequent collaborator Joel Singer. The film was shot in Sri Lanka, and is typical in its treatment of the transporting beauty of nature and its positioning of the person as a fundamental part of it. Two years later he made the masterful *Devotions*, also with Singer. Set in San Francisco and featuring a gorgeous gamelan orchestra background, the film imagines an ecstatic world in which men are freed from tired, joyless convention. Broughton again appears as the sweet seer, playing a pipe, seducing his players into scintillating tableaux of union. His mostly naked men spend their time in loving embrace, washing each other, caressing, kissing. Broughton's wit is never far away from his erotic celebrations: in one scene two men kiss on a rooftop, then slowly don nun's habits and saunter away in the fading day. Later, a pair of leather queens whip up a soufflé. Without being the least bit polemical, this graceful film, like all his work, shows the sweet rewards that come from living joyfully and, above all, authentically. ▼

**Homage to James Broughton: Ecstasy for Everyone** takes place at 7:30 p.m., Sun., Nov. 14, SF Art Institute, 800 Chestnut. Call 558-8129.

## Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

November 11, the net proceeds from both street fairs will be distributed by the board of directors of SMMILE at 1900. The beneficiaries, beer booth vendors and others will receive the proceeds from both events.

The hard working board of directors of SMMILE are full of pride for both fairs this year. While no one has accurately been able to say exactly how many people attended both affairs, if you were there you know Dore Alley was huge again this year and Mother Nature once more smiled

down on us for the Folsom Street Fair.

### Hither & yon

The sash rash game moves to Canada beginning this coming weekend when Dean Ross steps down from his Mr. Ottawa-Hull Leather title. A lot of the "usual suspects" will be there to see who will succeed the man who went on to win the Mr. Mid-Atlantic Leather title last January.

The following weekend, November 25-28, that cute Chris Holmgren steps aside from his Toronto Leatherman title. I'll be one of the judges helping to pick the successor. There are seven contestants already! I'll bring you

the results next week.

Here in the U.S., several new titles will be awarded this weekend, including Mr. Gotham Leather in New York, Mr. Maryland Leather in Baltimore and Ms. Louisiana Leather in New Orleans. In Chicago, the world-famous Cell Block hosts Rubber Blowout Weekend when Thomas Smith will pass his sash to the new Mr. International Rubber on Saturday night. Watch for the results here.

Meanwhile, our bare chest calendar guys will invade the Arena bar in San Diego to sell and autograph the 2000 calendars. They're having fun! And of course they're raising much-needed funds. ▼

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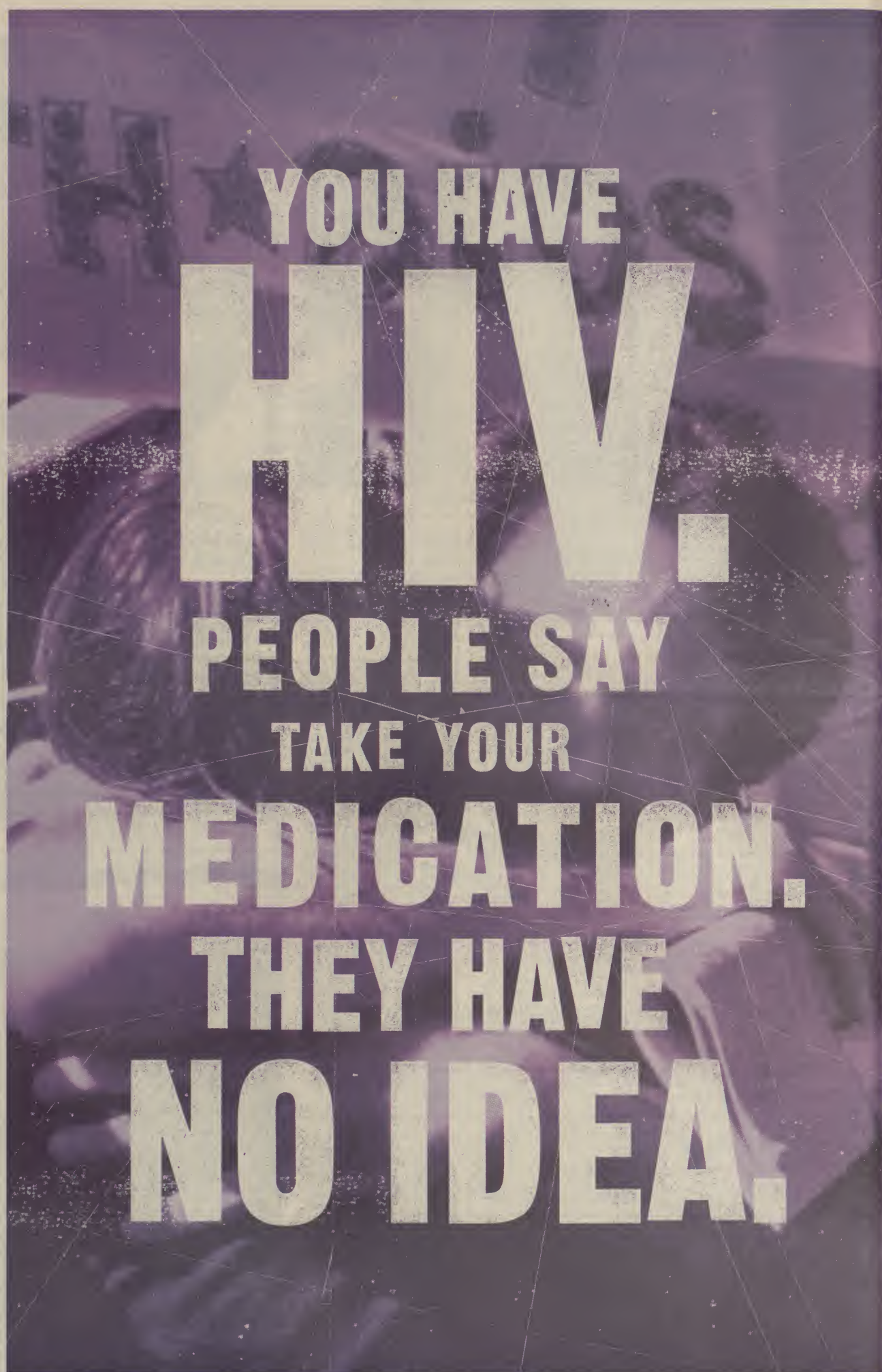
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Combination therapy brings with it a series of petty indignities. Sleep is missed. Plans are changed. You can't even eat breakfast, lunch and dinner when you want to.

Can something be done to help make dosing schedules convenient?

We believe it can. We are Vertex Pharmaceuticals and we have created a new protease inhibitor.

It was developed by a team of Vertex researchers - medicinal chemists, molecular biologists, biophysicists - all working closely together. We used a method called "structure-based drug design" and computer modeling software to find potential drug molecules. Then we used a three-dimensional picture of the HIV protease structure and computer filtering tools to design a drug that would attach to HIV protease.

Our new protease inhibitor is called Agenerase™ (amprenavir). It can be taken with or without food, so you can eat when you want to eat. (Just be sure to avoid taking Agenerase with a high-fat meal.) Take it twice a day, in the morning and evening. It stays in your system all day.

Agenerase in combination with other antiviral medicines is for the treatment of HIV infection. This use is based on 24-week studies of its effects on viral load and CD4 cell counts.

Of course, Agenerase is not perfect.

Agenerase is not a cure and has not been shown to prevent transmission of HIV infection. At this time, it is not known whether taking Agenerase will slow the progress of HIV disease or help you live longer.

We know side effects are a major concern for people taking protease inhibitors. In clinical trials Agenerase was generally well tolerated. But there were side effects associated with the drug. The most common side effects with Agenerase are nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, rash, and a tingling sensation around the mouth. If these side effects occur, they are usually mild to moderate and tend to stop after a few weeks of treatment.

You should know that high blood sugar, shifts in location of body fat, and a certain type of anemia have been seen in patients taking protease inhibitors, including Agenerase. Serious and/or life-threatening drug interactions and skin reactions have also been seen in patients taking Agenerase.

See important information for patients on next page.

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**Agenerase™**  
amprenavir



# Agenerase™

amprenavir 150 mg capsules

## PATIENT INFORMATION

AGENERASE™ (amprenavir) Capsules  
AGENERASE™ (amprenavir) Oral Solution

Please read this information before you start taking AGENERASE (pronounced ah-GEN-er-ase), and re-read it each time you receive your prescription, just in case something has changed. Remember that this information does not take the place of careful discussions with your doctor when you start this medication and at checkups. You should not change or stop your anti-HIV treatment without first talking with your doctor. **You should tell your doctor about any drug you are taking or planning to take because taking AGENERASE with some medications can result in serious or life-threatening problems.**

### What is AGENERASE?

AGENERASE is a medication used to treat HIV infection. HIV is the virus that causes AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome). AGENERASE is taken by mouth as a soft gel capsule or oral solution. It belongs to a class of anti-HIV medicines called protease inhibitors.

### How does AGENERASE work?

AGENERASE is used only in combination with other anti-HIV medicines. When used in combination therapy, AGENERASE may help lower the amount of HIV found in your blood, raise CD4 (T) cell count, and keep your immune system as healthy as possible so that it can help fight infection. However, AGENERASE does not have these effects in all patients.

### What are the side effects of AGENERASE?

Common side effects of AGENERASE are nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, rash, and a tingling sensation around the mouth. Severe or life-threatening rash has been reported.

Contact your doctor if you have nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, or rash. Your doctor may be able to help you manage these symptoms. Your doctor will advise you whether your symptoms can be managed on therapy or whether AGENERASE should be stopped.

This list of side effects is not complete. Your doctor or pharmacist can discuss with you a more complete list of possible side effects with AGENERASE. Talk to your doctor promptly about any side effects you have.

### How should I take AGENERASE?

Take AGENERASE exactly as your doctor prescribes it. The usual dosage for adults and adolescents (at least 13 years of age) is eight 150-mg soft gel capsules twice a day (morning and night), in combination with other anti-HIV medicines.

AGENERASE can be taken with or without food. However, you should not take AGENERASE with a high-fat meal because this could reduce the effectiveness of AGENERASE.

### What should I do if I miss a dose of AGENERASE?

To help make sure that your anti-HIV therapy is as effective as possible, be very careful to take all of your medication exactly as your doctor prescribed it and do not skip any doses.

If you miss a dose of AGENERASE by more than 4 hours, wait and take the next dose at the regularly scheduled time. However, if you miss a dose by fewer than 4 hours, take your missed dose immediately. Then take your next dose at the regularly scheduled time. Do not take more or less than your prescribed dose of AGENERASE at any one time.

When your supply of AGENERASE or other anti-HIV drugs starts to run low, arrange to get more from your doctor or pharmacy. It is very important that you take anti-HIV drugs as prescribed by your doctor because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if one or more of the drugs is stopped, even for a short time.

### Can AGENERASE be taken with other medications?

Protease inhibitors, including AGENERASE, may interact with other drugs, including those you take without a prescription. Before you take AGENERASE, tell your doctor about any drugs that you are taking or planning to take including non-prescription drugs.

- **You should not take any of the following medications with AGENERASE because serious or life-threatening problems could occur.\***

Halcion® (triazolam)	Propulsid® (cisapride)
Hismanal® (astemizole)	Versed® (midazolam)
Ergot medications (Cafergot® and others)	Vasor® (bepridil)

- **You should also not take rifampin with AGENERASE because this drug reduces the effectiveness of AGENERASE.** Rifampin is also known as: Rifadin®, Rifamate®, Rifater®, and Rimactane®

- **Serious and/or life-threatening drug interactions can also occur if you take AGENERASE with any of the following drugs.\*** If you need to take any of these drugs, your doctor may closely monitor the amount of drug in your blood to minimize potential problems.

Cordarone® (amiodarone)  
Phenobarbital  
Dilantin® (phenytoin)  
Lidocaine  
Coumadin® (warfarin)  
(quinidine) Quinaglut®, Cardioquin®, Quinidex®  
Antidepressants such as Elavil® (amitriptyline), Norpramin® (desipramine),  
Pamelor® (nortriptyline), Tofranil® (imipramine)

- Before you take Viagra® (sildenafil) with AGENERASE, talk to your doctor about possible drug interactions and side effects. If you take Viagra and AGENERASE together, you may be at increased risk of side effects of Viagra such as low blood pressure, visual changes, and penile erection lasting more than 4 hours. If an erection lasts longer than 4 hours, you should seek immediate medical assistance to avoid permanent damage to your penis. Your doctor can explain these symptoms to you.

- If you use birth control pills, talk to your doctor about choosing a different type of contraceptive, since AGENERASE may reduce the effectiveness of some birth control pills.

- Because AGENERASE Capsules and Oral Solution contain large amounts of vitamin E, you should not take additional vitamin E while taking AGENERASE.

### Special considerations:

If you take AGENERASE with Mycobutin® (rifabutin), your doctor will lower the dose of Mycobutin. If you take AGENERASE with Videx® (didanosine, ddl), take them at least 1 hour apart. If you take AGENERASE with antacids, take them at least 1 hour apart.

### Does AGENERASE cure HIV infection or AIDS?

AGENERASE does not cure HIV infection or AIDS. At this time we do not know if AGENERASE will help you live longer or have fewer of the medical problems (opportunistic infections) that are associated with HIV infection or AIDS. Because of this, you must be sure to be seen regularly by your healthcare professional.

### Does AGENERASE reduce the risk of passing HIV to others?

No. AGENERASE, as well as other anti-HIV medications, has not been shown to reduce the risk of passing HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination. Continue to practice safe sex and do not use or share dirty needles.

### Who should not take AGENERASE?

Do not take AGENERASE if you have had a serious allergic reaction to AGENERASE or any of its ingredients. If you have liver disease, your dosage of AGENERASE may have to be adjusted.

If you are allergic to sulfa drugs, you should inform your doctor.

### Can children take AGENERASE?

Children from 4 to 12 years of age can also take AGENERASE. Your doctor will tell you if the oral solution or capsule is best for your child. Your child's doctor will decide the right dose based on your child's weight and age. AGENERASE has not been studied in children under 4 years of age.

### Can pregnant women and nursing mothers take AGENERASE?

AGENERASE has not been studied in pregnant women and the risk to the unborn child is not known. Talk to your doctor if you are pregnant or if you become pregnant while taking AGENERASE.

Mothers with HIV should not breastfeed their infants because HIV in the breast milk can infect the infant.

### What other medical conditions should I discuss with my doctor?

Talk to your doctor if you are pregnant or if you become pregnant while you are taking AGENERASE.

Also talk to your doctor if you have hemophilia or problems with your liver.

### How should I store AGENERASE Capsules and Oral Solution?

AGENERASE Capsules and Oral Solution should be stored at room temperature and should not be refrigerated.

### Other information:

This medication is prescribed for a particular condition. Do not use it for any other condition or give it to anybody else. Keep AGENERASE and all medicines out of the reach of children.

Ask a healthcare professional any questions you may have about AGENERASE.

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June 1999

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# Too hot for the bus

by Deborah Peifer

**M**y first mistake was thinking I could read Jess Wells' new novel, *The Price of Passion* (Firebrand, \$10.95), on the bus. Somewhere in the first 20 pages or so, I realized that I was either going to have to stop reading or risk imminent arrest for lewd behavior and lascivious breathing in public. My second mistake was taking *Lip Service* (alluring new erotica edited by Jess Wells, Alyson, \$12.95) with me when I was asked to baby-sit for a friend. After the six-year-old was asleep, I began to read *Lip Service*, and within the very first story, realized that I had either to lock myself in the bathroom, and hope my young friend didn't wake up and that his parents didn't come home early, or switch to significantly less (read, not at all) erotic reading. I decided to shift to Harry Potter in order to spare myself serious embarrassment. Once home, in both cases, I turned off the phone and had a splendid time ... reading.

*The Price of Passion* tells the story of Simone, who, after the death of her agoraphobic mother, is shipped off to boarding school by her mostly absent grandmother. When her grandmother summons Simone to her deathbed to earn her inheritance by visiting her grandmother's far-flung circle of friends, Simone takes the challenge in order to construct a past for herself. What she learns is that her real birthright is much more than mere money. On the way to that discovery, Simone has a series of sexual adventures that left us both gasping with pleasure.

Jess Wells has always been an extraordinary writer, but with *The Price of Passion* she moves into the rarefied circle of the great authors, those who can capture a character, a setting, an event, an emotion, with complete care and utter mastery. Consider this description of mother and grandmother: "Her grandmother had seemed as incapable of staying as her mother had been of leaving. Her mother had been all nest, her grandmother all flight."

Wells' prose reflects the care of a writer who weighs every word, while — and this is the tricky part — achieving a lightness that suggests that we are hearing a story breathlessly told for the first time. As for the erotic character of the prose, all I can say is, whew. I can't remember ever enjoying erotica more. *The Price of Passion* is astonishing.

## Loose lips

"Our lips are as close as they can be without actually touching." That breathtaking line begins the first story in *Lip Service*, a collection of some of the most sexually adventurous stories I've ever read (one-handed, I must confess, all the way through). Selecting favorites among the gems in this anthology is much more difficult than simply choosing a favorite child. "How I Ended Up on My Back" by Annie M. Evans deserves mention, certainly, as a story that more than lives up to that stunning first line, but so does "Pearls," Jeannie Sullivan's tale of a trip to a mall that is (curse my wretched luck) like no shopping trip I've ever taken. If you've ever wished to torture an ex-lover with the news that your sex life is much



Author Jess Wells

better since she left you, check out Wendy Caster's "The Sacred Sex Tour" and revel in the sweetest possible revenge. *Lip Service* is extraordinary — sexy, funny, smart, and intensely erotic. Whew, again.

Once I caught my breath, I just knew I had to chat with Wells about her newest books. Here's some of what we talked about.

## Book Report

Deborah Peifer: What was the genesis of *The*

*Price of Passion*? I've never read anything like it — the idea that an erotic quest could be cause for celebration rather than a reason for years of therapy. I especially like the idea that Simone's real inheritance was not the money, but an erotic life.

Jess Wells: A friend of mine said that *The Price of Passion* turned her vibrator into a bookmark. The book began as a series of vignettes. I love to travel — I lived in Europe for a while, and I've traveled in Asia — and I started imagining fantasies that took place in various locations. I wanted to explore the idea that an erotic life is a good life. Eroticism and sexuality are gifts from mother to daughter.

The dance sequence, which is so gloriously sexy, is the first of Simone's erotic adventures — can you talk about that?

I liked the whole idea of an orgy. Something had to break Simone's pattern, to startle her out of her safe and regulated sex life. Our fantasy lives are so amazing. I tell people that I visited all the locales in the book, but the sex scenes are pure fantasy.

*Lip Service* is extraordinarily erotic — how were you able to find such a broad range of writers — many of them new, to me at least?

In the calls for submissions, first-time writers and women of color were especially encouraged. I wanted the stories to reflect different kinds of proclivities, and I also wanted a wide variety of styles. Racial balance and various class issues were very important as well. I had a chart so that I could keep track of, for example, how many fist-fucking stories I had.

What's great about *Lip Service* is that it doesn't read like something put together with a chart. I was particularly amazed by how erotic the stories dealing with sadomasochism were — normally that's a practice I find repellent, and not a turn-on.

I think that reflects where we as a culture are with s/m. It's more

very light bondage, with lots of play, very soft and not at all brutal. The partners in these stories have been together a long time, and they know they can trust one another to be perfectly safe. ▼

If you have gossip, inquiries or information of a literary nature, send them to [peiferd@aol.com](mailto:peiferd@aol.com), or via snail mail to the B.A.R.

*Rhea... trying to forget her is futile.*

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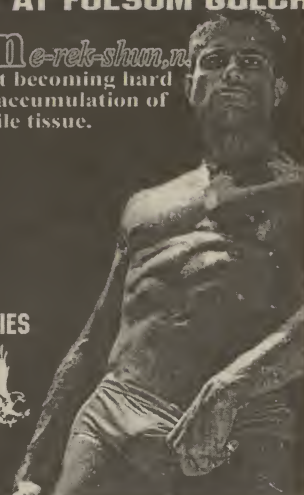
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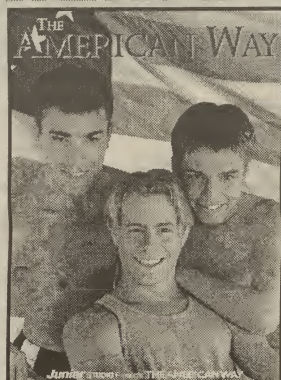
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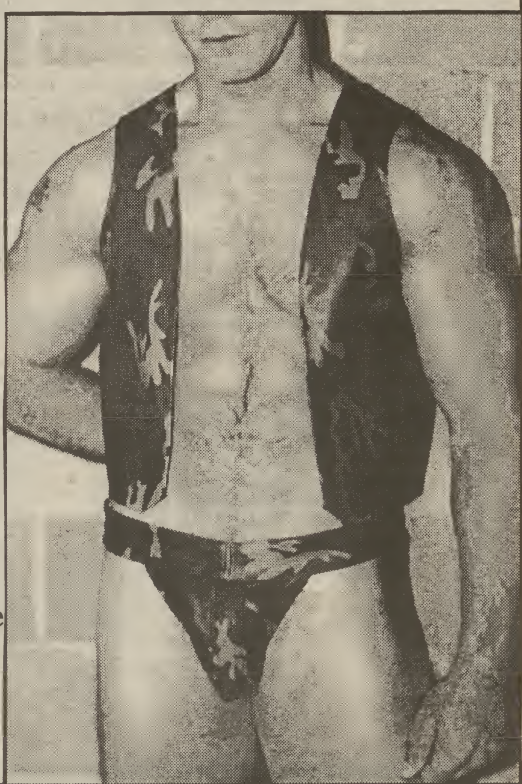
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# BAR TALK

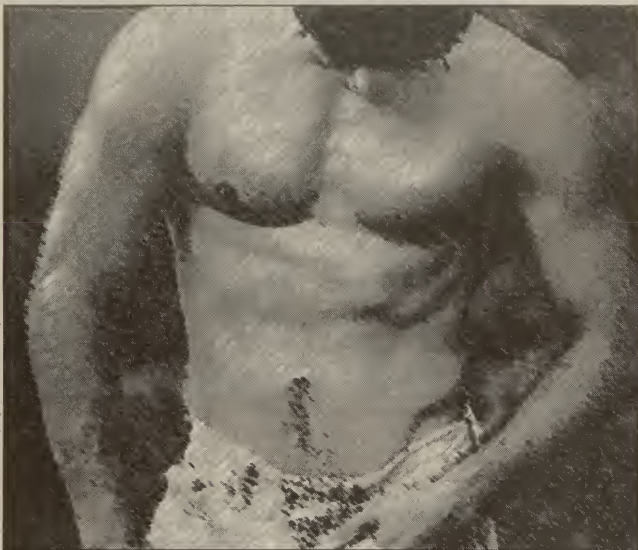


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### PARTING GLANCES

**Castro St. Fair, Hot N' Hunky, 9:30pm**  
Was at window table with friend. Kept turning back and smiling at you, but your "to-go" order was ready before I was! Waved at you as you left. You smiled and waved back! You're cute! I'd like to get to know you! Please Call. ☎ 9700

**Keith-Steampunk Mon. Aft. 9-28**  
I wanted to fuck your hot little butt so bad! Our timing was off. I'm not just big & thick. I'm good stamina, repeat action, short down time. Call me, Dean. ☎ 9702

**Market Street @ Noon, Sat. Oct. 2**  
You: driving down Market Street. While male in a white BMW convertible 325i. Me: Green Range Rover, we looked at each other. Would like to connect. ☎ 9800

**Baker/Beach Sept 28 Tuesday**  
We are tall, stashed, very tanned and handsome men you were with mature woman. We kept exchanging glances. Let's meet and be naked together. I won't be so shy. Dinner? ☎ 9704

**10/2 Fillmore Morning**  
You: Silver hair w/black jacket & pants WM, me: Black sweater AM, crossing each other on Fillmore St. I was rush to Japan town to meet my friends. We looked back to each other. Want a cup of coffee? ☎ 9707

**Baker Beach Sat Oct 16**  
You: Shirtless, low-slung, baggy jeans with toddler son; dark hair, bandana, dark shades. I: Blue shorts, short brown hair. You said "bye water." I said nothing. Please call. Randall. ☎ 9900

**Different Light Sun Oct 3rd**  
You: white cap, blue shorts checking out tg books. Would love to show you my big collection of tg books & femme fashions. ☎ 9706

**CCSF, K-line, Walgreens**  
Just a few places we've seen each other. You: Asian, very lean, cute, tennis racket. Me: dark blonde, handsome, shy. Let's get past mutual cruising and talk. ☎ 9709

**Ran Into You @ Oak/Divisadero**  
You: Latin (Asian?), gorgeous, khaki shorts. Me: runner. We exchanged hellos. Wanted to talk more, but was running. Interested? I'd love to meet you. ☎ 9703

**Castro St. Fair- Twice Cruised**  
First time: 16th & Guerrero, second time at fair. You: black tee, shorts, glasses, goatee. Us: 2 bears liked what we saw. You were interested and so are we. Call! ☎ 9710

**Argentine Restaurant October 1**  
You were with a friend. I sat at the bar and we noticed each other. You left and turned on Octavia near Hayes, wanna meet? ☎ 9701

**Waterworld**  
Spoke to you about your tattoos as I was leaving. Didn't have pen & paper. Would love to meet again. Call me. Clarke. ☎ 9801

**Mike, Pwexchng 10/4/99 3:45am**  
You: 6'7" nice guy! "God had a sale!" Wasn't able to get you my chard-please give a call! David-frisky guy. ☎ 9708

**Book Fair And Dore Alley**  
We traded looks at both events. 10/16, you were working. I have a beard, buzzed hair, glasses, keys left. I would like to know who you are. ☎ 9901

**Embarcadero Center Oct 7th**  
3:30pm Davis Street bwn. Emb. 1 & 3, at one point we walked side by side. Not the first time we have crossed. Would you like to meet? ☎ 9802

**Market & 16th 10/6/99 3:45pm**  
You drove by in a green Honda. Me: yellow shorts, grey sweat shirt, shaved head, goatee, want a closer look? I do. ☎ 9804

**WaterGarden Sun. Oct. 2**  
You: hot buffed Hispanic. I was the Hispanic guy who's room you walked into, #6 you made a certain request and I agreed to it. You said, you would be back. Give me a chance. ☎ 9805

**Castro Street Fair Bead Dick Toss**  
You: fatigues, no shirt, goatee. Me: long goatee, camouflage suit, tattoos. I noticed you several times and liked what I saw. Would like to meet. Call Me. ☎ 9806

**Basked In Your Gaze On Bart**  
From Civic Center until you disembarked at Glen Park late afternoon of the Folsom St. Fair. Me: White t-shirt, dark hair. You: Whit tank-top, sandy. Both: glasses, with friend. ☎ 9705

**SFMOMA-Cremaster Video 10-24**  
You explained the finger points, can we continue the discussion over dinner? I'd love to see your smile again. ☎ 1101

**Moby Dicks Pool Sharks Oct. 12**  
Do you play pool at Moby Dicks wearing skimpy white see thru shirt. Me, blondish pinball wizard blushed every time our eyes met. Call me. ☎ 9904

**Randy At Daddy's And The Edge**  
You: blond, smooth, flat top. You liked my hairy bod. Love yours, too! Agree? No BF this time!?! ☎ 9803

**Vibrant Health Wed. Aft 10-20-99**  
You-khaki slacks shopping for Mypplex and asking about flavors. I advised vanilla. You enjoyed looking at my charcoal levis. Squat & Gobble. Let's meet. Call me. ☎ 1000

**Black Sands Beach Sun 10/17**  
We left at the same time. You drove white truck with Michigan plates. I followed until turnoff. We waved. Let's exchange more than glances. ☎ 1001

**Gorgeous Redhead From Philly**  
Eros on 10/23. You tipped for me. Would be happy to return the favor. Give a call; would like to stay in touch. ☎ 1002

**Eliza's Sun, 10/10, 1-2pm, Potrero**  
You and three friends sat at table in front of restaurant. Me: young Eurasian in shorts. You: GWM with gorgeous blue eyes. Our eyes met as I walked out. Date? ☎ 9902

**"My Place" Sat. 10/16 Late & Out**  
You: dark hair boy; me: tiny, thin strip of chin hair; curly brown hair, us= passion & lots of kissing. We kissed walking out at closing time while you held me from behind- said you live across from Glide- ☎ 1003

**Smile To Start My Day**  
Couldn't think of anything nicer. You: cute blonde, gray t-shirt, walking down Grove Street, Wed. 10/20, 8:45am. Me: Asian driving white Cherokee. Got my engine revving! How about coffee? ☎ 1004

**Golds Gym Sat Evening 10/23**  
We rubbed knees in the sauna. You: beautiful bleached blond w/dark roots. Me: dark hair, tattooed arm. You were a turtle-neck when you left? Interested? Let's meet. ☎ 1005

**Same Name Sun 10/13 Nob Hill**  
Took a walk, got lost in the hotel. Got drinks at Union Square. Talk was good real thing great. Ready for the next fantasy? ☎ 9903

**You Live On 18th Street**  
Met at The Cafe in March. You're from New York, currently live in San Francisco on 18th Street. You said I was handsome, I was with a date. Can't stop thinking about you. ☎ 1100

**Gil On Halloween!**  
We met at the Rainbow and I had a great time, but I didn't get your number! Call me- I won't be "SCARY"! ☎ 1102

**Philip At GG Bridge Beach 10/24**  
Met you a second time at the beach this year but my timing was off again. Beach season's ending. I'd love to hook up. Call me, Lyle. ☎ 1103

**Castro Barber Shop 10/26**  
You getting head shave, me haircut next seat over- xchange glances, Date? ☎ 1104

### SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

**It's All Good! Hip-Hop 2 Opera!**  
30yr. Latin male, cute, smart, ISO boyfriend into arts, music, used book store, skateboarding; I'm 5'9" 150lb. Hairy with dimpled chin. ☎ 9711

**Wanted Mature Man To Service**  
If you are in your late 50's to 60's, clean, trim, HIV- and interested in having your cock service on a weekly basis, call me! Your place no reciprocity necessary. ☎ 9712

**E. Bay Guy Needs Guy**  
GWM 48, Italian, hairy handsome, ISO fun and/or ltr 35-50, any race. ☎ 9713

**Asian Masters**  
I wish to be dominated sexually by Asian men. Forced me to suck and be fucked for long time. I'm GWM 6' 165lbs. You won't be disappointed. ☎ 9714

**Winter Is Coming/Mate Wanted!!**  
ISO for ltr displaying lots of affection, honesty and good times. Outgoing GAM seeks fun & outgoing types between 25-40 years. ☎ 9715

**HIV+ Total Top Wanted**  
Capricorn, Cancer, or Virgo- needs black hair, brown eyes, mustache, any race. HIV+, Pittsburgh bottom, Taurus, 37, blue, brown, 6 foot, 185 seeks suburban loving boyfriend, let's snuggle by the fire, play house! ☎ 9716

**Sweet Spicy & Sensuous**  
GWM, HIV-, 41, 5'9", 175lbs, reddish brn/blue. ISO GWM or GHM, HIV-, 35-45, who enjoys movies, dining out, & kissing & cuddling. For a great date. Pls. call ☎ 9717

**Looking For A Nice Stable Man**  
Who's sexy, in decent shape, HIV+, 35-50, to drive crazy & unwind with. I love sex, playing hard & soft, kissing, talking. I'm tall, 38, HIV+, nasty & nice. No drugs. ☎ 9718

**Good-looking Latin 28**  
I'm 5'6", 165lbs, stocky, muscular, dark features, top. I'm looking to meet Latinos or Whites under 40 for friendship, maybe more. ☎ 9719

**Tri Valley Romance Or Just Fun**  
42yr old, tall, dark, HIV+, Irish/Finnish looking for younger HIV+ guy for fun. Outdoors, in bed, or over coffee. Love books, classical music, movies & fun. ☎ 9720

**Black Stud ISO Cute Whiteboy**  
I'm 26, 5'10" 160lbs, gym fit, top. You are 21-35 blue or green eyed, clean cut fit bottom. No piercings, tattoos, n/s, n/d. Must be masc, sensitive, sensual. ☎ 9721

**Handsome Italian**  
40, 6'2", 185lbs, well-endowed into fitness, travel, romance and quiet times seek another HIV- Latin man who is honest, romantic and sincere for monogamous relationship. ☎ 9722

**Heaven Looking For Angles**  
Hot, mature Latin seeks men for dating, friendship, good times. Me: tall, handsome, dark, many interests. You: 30-40, cute, outgoing. ☎ 9723

**HIV+ Ready To Settle Down**  
53yo, HIV+ Worldly, well mannered, activist, warm, nonpossessive, huggable, workout, 5'11", vers-bim, shaved head, hot kinky sex, quiet times. You: want ltr, honest, no games, any age/race (like younger) n/s, ltr/d, no dependencies. ☎ 9724

**"Looking For Quality Man"**  
Me: sincere, happy Italian guy, 42, 180 proff. Creative HIV- warm heart, honest, regular guy. You: similar qualities, n/s, n/d not Mr. Perfect and not Mr. Nightmare, should we meet? ☎ 9725

**Ready To Take A Chance?**  
Hot, bearded, pierced, tattooed daddy (fit 50, 165#, 5'10") seeks HIV+ lean, toned, handsome, masculine, tactile, versatile, romantic n/s professional GWM, 30's-40's, with sense of humor & nasty streak. ☎ 9726

**Intelligent And Esoteric**  
Seeks similar for friendship and/or LTR. Me: 5'8", 130lbs, thin and toned, intense. You: weird, skinnythin a plus, not concerned with person's ethnicity, enjoy intellectually stimulating conversations. ☎ 9807

**Like Making Things Happen?**  
WM, msc, top, 56, 40's, slim, HIV-, wants permanent LTR with petite, sensitive, caring AM, 30-40. Must be emotionally open, able to talk about feelings, unafraid of intimacy. ☎ 9808

**Handsome Greek In Texas Seeks**  
Older, successful, nice gentleman for companionship. LTR. Me: 30's, very attractive, good body, educated, professional, giving, trusting, affectionate, fun. Make you look, feel good. A mutually beneficial relationship. Let's talk. ☎ 9809

**Attractive Euro-American**  
Goodlooking, professional, dark hair-eyes 6ft, 175 seeks Asian, Latino bottoms for life, love, adventure. N/s-n/d. ☎ 9810

**GAM Looking For Sincere GWM**  
33 Professional looking for GWM 30-43 who is relationship oriented. I'm, 155lb educated & you too. Call if interested. ☎ 9819

**Your LTR Search Ends Here!**  
Young at heart, well-maintained, professional, GWM, 37, 5'6", 145#, cute, healthy, brn/hzl. Creative, funny, generous, intelligent, passionate, dinner & show or romantic weekend getaway? Please be sincere considerate, adventurous. ☎ 9811

**Full Service Cock Sucker...**  
Wanted by senior, verbally abusive S.F. man. His home, days ok. Weekly sessions. Prof. person. ☎ 9812

**Looking For Mr. Daddy**  
33, WM, 5'9", 195, East Bay, attractive, blond, goatee/beard. You: 45yo+ for sexual adventure/relationship possible. Pluses: beard, mustache, hairy, s/p grey, hairy. ☎ 9813

**What's Cooking**  
31yr GAM looking for someone who can cook and is interested in sharing a romantic interlude dining on savory cuisines. ☎ 9814

**Attractive Latino**  
Goodlooking 34yo attractive Latino. 5'7", 150# dark hair goatee, professional, looking for GWM-between 26-39yo. for friendship or more. Me: like dinner, movies, traveling, hiking, biking. Call me. ☎ 9815

**18 To 24? Ideal!....**  
For incestuous fling (sucking/rimming/piss)/w/ trim/atr undressed dad 71; looks maybe 59; still get calls from ex boyfriends to suck them off! ☎ 9816

**Cool Guy**  
Professional, masculine Asian, 52, 5'8", 155, seeking lean, gym-toned, clean shaven WM with positive attributes for adventurous companion or more. Enjoy the outdoors, running, ethnic foods, workouts, arts, films, and you? ☎ 9817

**Tired Of Being Single?**  
Shy GM 33, 5'9" 160lbs not into bar scene or chemical dependencies. ISO quality Caucasian male under 50 with good moral values, sense of humor, and emotionally available. ☎ 9818

**Canadian Mountie In Bay Area?**  
31yr GAM seeking to meet Canadian Mountie. I know it's a long shot, but who knows? ☎ 9820

**How About This?**  
Energetic GWM, 30, 6', 175#, br/hzl loveable, interesting and very cute. Enjoy most everything except, Country and Rap music. Seeking light eyes, sports oriented man for dating. No fats, fems, b/s. Interested? ☎ 9821

**GBM 6'3", 175lbs**  
You: Attractive, stable, mature also honest, open minded and athletic. Foreigner of any ethnicity A+ friendship and more. ☎ 9822

**Submissive Boy/Son Sought**  
Healthy and imaginative 52yo GWM seeks submissive boy or son to age 40. All races. Progressive relationship possible. ☎ 9823

**Got Mates?**  
Eccentric gay Jewish man 35, very in-shape, seeks hot (in mind and body) Asian or Jew (smooth) for LTR possibility. ☎ 9905

**GWM Looking To Meet GAM Men**  
In same age range- 40's, I'm trim and healthy, 5'10"/142lbs, with many interests including exercise, theatre, writing, travel, etc. Friendship or possible relationship. ☎ 9906

**Are You Mr. Right?**  
Sgl 26 GWM, blond/blue, clean shaven, HIV-, have recently moved to SF, am lonely, seeking 18-30 gay Latin, Asians to bond with. More? ☎ 9907

**Looking For Companionship**  
GWM, 47, 175lbs, HIV-, would like to meet GAM/GLM, 40's-50's for companionship & pos more in the San Lorenzo/Hayward area. Let's take care of each other. ☎ 9908

**Are You Masc. Musc. And Sexy?**  
I enjoy entertaining, athletic, married/single men, 35+, I'm prof. honest, discreet and talented. No strings no reciprocity required. Pref. East Bay. ☎ 9909

**GWM 40 Looking 4 A White Or**  
Hispanic guy 20's to early 30's who likes passion and adventure. I'm 5'10", 160#, looking for clean-cut, boy-next-door type. I enjoy travel, concerts, and good living. ☎ 9910

**Country Boy Seeks Adventurer**  
Masc, open-minded, stable man 40-55 sought by blond, blue 5'10", 170#, 41, fit healthy pro for travel/country weekends, electric city nights. Let's make mischief! ☎ 9911

**Goodlooking Muscular Eurasian**  
Early 30's ISO attractive, fun, romantic, in-shape, intelligent men of any background. For dating, and possible LTR. ☎ 9912

**Average Guy Seeks Average Guy**  
GWM 55, 5'10" 190lbs, enjoys movies, long walks, talks, most music, good food, old fashioned romance, would like to meet men with similar feelings 35+ ns, id. Anyone out there? ☎ 9913

**Hairy Little Fuckbuddy Wanted**  
Boomer, 5'8", 135, muscled, very hairy, shaved head, goatee, average cut tool, HIV+ Want same or shorter HIV+ fuckbuddy, muscled and hairy, for frequent latex-free butt-fudging. ☎ 1009

# BAR TALK

## PERSONALS ARE FREE!

### CATEGORY

- Parting Glances ☐  
Seeking Relationship ☐  
Seeking Adventure ☐  
Lesbian ☐  
Fetishes ☐  
Couples ☐  
Others ☐

Headline, 30 characters maximum

Write the rest of your ad here, 30 words maximum

MAIL FORM TO: BAR Talk, Bay Area Reporter, 395 Ninth Street, San Francisco, CA 94103

You must use this form to submit ads. Deadline for ads is **TUESDAY at 5 PM**, for the following week's issue. New ads run for three consecutive weeks. You will be notified by mail with information on how to leave and retrieve messages from your mailbox ad. Print clearly. No ads will be accepted without valid address, telephone number and legible text. The Bay Area Reporter reserves the right to edit ads. **One ad per customer per week.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_



**Double Your Fun**

Two friends, GAM, 56, 5'8", 135, blonde, HIV- and GWM, 53, 5'8", 185, brunet, HIV- each seek a separate relationship with the same loving and affectionate gay male. ☎ 1012

**Second Chance In Romance**

39yo Asian, Foster Parent, no drugs, alcohol, like gay scene, HIV- would like to meet GWM 35-50yo for urban adventures. Bear cubs preferred. ☎ 9914

**Old-Fashioned Romance**

Intelligent, loving GWM, 59", 150# gym toned, slim body, 48, interested in lifes deeper meanings and finding a caring, committed relationship with someone 30 to 40, slim, healthy, no drugs or smoke. ☎ 9915

**African American Cutie**

Educated 28, 5'6", 170 seek a LTR/friendship w/guys 23-35 who is HIV- down to earth, intelligent & honest. I enjoy movies, dancing, cooking, beachwalks, cultural events. Serious only! ☎ 9916

**Datin N Romance Only**

ISO dates with LA/JF, not one nighters. Enjoy movies, cuisine, and rollerblading. Me: Latin-Navy 33, 5'6", 155#; ISO similar for on-going fun times in all ways. ☎ 9917

**Palo Alto GAM Needs To Get**

bored by average to well endowment. 41, 5'11", 190, your place. ☎ 9918.

**First Time Ad**

GWM, early 40's, 5'11", 205#, professional, financially secure. Seeks GWM, 25-40, HIV-, non-smoker. Recently out of LTR. Blond/blue a plus. ☎ 1006

**I Have A Bear Magazine Look**

GWM 45-200lbs, 5'9" HIV- hairy, husky, mustache, balding seeks guy 20 to 30 w/attractive boyish looks, for possible relationship. ☎ 1007

**Friendship And Sex**

Seeking both, Me: 50 BM top. You: 55-56 WM bottom. Let's have dinner, drinks, smoke, conversation and good sex. Please be 5'10" or less. Not thin, no beard and sensitive nips. ☎ 1008

**Bear Seeking Bear In South Bay**

30-40 hair chest & ass w/goatee. I am 6'1" 225, brown, blue, appliances man for Gregg's T.V. + appliance in Palo Alto area. ☎ 1010

**Snuggle Buddy Wanted**

41, GWM, 6', 165lbs, half-Italian half-German HIV+, wants to physically relate with GWM of similar build fully clothed. Love cuddling in front of television. ☎ 1011

**WLM, 43, 6'10lbs. ISO.....**

Husky or heavyset men with hairy bellies for lots of deep kissing, holding, oral action. Facial hair, rugged looks A+ No gay scene, drugs, smoking, I drink ok. ☎ 1013

**Handsome Hung Russian Teacher**

GWM 41 youthful looking needs Russian top to teach me his language. I am HIV+ and full of life. Age not important, but quality is. Tops only. ☎ 1014

**College Students**

18-25 young males for honest clean safe sex and foreplay. HIV- and clean hygiene is a plus. GBM, 5'10", 220, ch50", 9"-10", and 7" round, clean, HIV- aggressive, gentle. ☎ 1105

**Virgin Buns**

Dancers, Porn Stars and Bodybuilders for safe sex and possible friendship. GBM, 48, goodlooking, aggressive, strong, ch.50", HIV- love buns and big quarter size nipples. No fats. ☎ 1106

**Are You Tall In Body & Spirit?**

I love tall, lean or athletic guys with a big, compassionate heart. 28-35, I'm 30, 5'8", athletic-medium build, br/cur face, spiritual, intellectual, artistic, adventuresome, great kisser, sexy, monogamous. ☎ 1107

**Friendship Wanted**

GWM, 39, 5'11", 175, looking for new friends, 35-45 professional, blue eyes, sincere, into outdoors, cooking, cultural events. ☎ 1108

**Asian ISO Black**

GAM around 40s seeks Black male friend, possibly LTR, no overweight, please be sincere only. N/S, N/D, not pets. ☎ 1109

**Here I Am!**

East Bay White male, hung, versatile, 5'8", 158, 50's, HIV-, ISO Blacks, Asians, White, HIV-, age/looks not important but please no BS. Be down-to-earth and sincere. ☎ 1110

**SEEKING ADVENTURE****Dominant Master Sought,**

39 165lbs hairy, tats, goatee. Seek sane master for training. AM versatile-submissive. Wants limits expanded. ☎ 9727

**I Give Head & Bend Over For**

Horny uncut thick dickied men 25-45, Mexicans & Latinos make my 9" dick hard & my mouth water. I'm 39, in-shape HIV-, 6', 190#, White. My place in Hayes Valley. ☎ 9728

**Intense French**

GWM 30's desires French boyfriend. Wild but not into "tricky French games". I live in S.F./Paris. ☎ 9729

**Tall Handsome Passionate HIV+**

44, 6'3" tall 185lbs brn/gm with hairy HIV+ bottom 50. Bay skys height weight proportionate, well hung, top, 7+ thick for open ltr, hairy+ take a chance. ☎ 9730

**I Love Smelly Uncut Cock!**

Attractive White boy, mid-30's, loves smelly uncut cock. If you're Asian or Latino, 20s-30s, & have a nice uncut dick, I'll suck it. ☎ 9731

**Latino Or Filipino Top Wanted**

SBM 39, 6'1" seeking a Latino or Filipino top for safe fun. Any age. Let's meet & have fun. ☎ 9732

**Pissers Wanted**

Oversexed, thirsty senior wants your non stop golden liquid. I'm 6'10", 7" uncut. You're any age, weight, color. Full service given. HIV-. ☎ 9733

**"Bitch, Fuck Me!"**

Hairy, GWM wants it hard from the rear. ☎ 9734

**ISO Playmates**

Healthy pot guy seeks 2 to 3 others for group fun. Me: 43, 5'9", 160, brn/gm, good looking, lean muscular body. Heavily oral. My place is fine. In-shape guys only. ☎ 9735

**Slave Training**

Masculine, mature experienced master ISO muscular submissive GWM 30-50 to train for his pleasure. Total obedience a must. ☎ 9736

**Big, Husky & Pleasantly Fat**

GBM, 45yo, 5'11" seeks big & fat men his size or bigger only for versatile, uninhibited sex. Dildo play a plus. ☎ 9737

**Hot Oil Erotic Massage/Hot Tub**

White bi male 6'210 ex-military, looking for in shape guys 20-40 to pamper and spoil very passionate and oral lay back & enjoy. ☎ 9738

**Sexy SFWM Provides Asian Stud**

Service to slim smooth young Asian Stud bottoms. I am 5'10", 165#, Italian, 8" cut. I will rim your ass & fuck you hard. ☎ 9824

**Natural Or Buffed Beatty Butts**

Checks soothed and smothered by oral massage, palms, thumbs, and goatee. Very private, sane; shy/guys will be able to relax here. I love eating ass. Give a call. ☎ 9825

**Sexy WM For Asian**

35, 5'10", 160#, 8", cut, top, healthy, horny, WM seeks slim smooth Asian bottoms in S.F. Weekday, afternoons. ☎ 9826

**Oral Slave Needed**

50yo 5'8", 155lbs slim HIV- White male seeks gay male 35yo to 60 slim HIV-To suck his 7 1/2 uncut and eat his hairy ass. ☎ 9827

**Role Reversal**

Dominant dad, 60, 5'10", 185, bearded, hairy. Looking for son/or to take charge, turn me into your bottom dad. ☎ 9828

**Dick Size Doesn't Matter!**

No, it needn't be "long enough to reach the ground." (Lincoln), but the better I've sucked you off the bigger your loads-- the proof of the pudding! ☎ 9829

**Latino Seeks Blonde Top**

Latino 40ys 220lbs, goodlooking, muscular, masculine HIV- looking for a blonde top 25-40 skinny a plus others many respond also. ☎ 9830

**Needs Attention, Please**

6'1/2"x5'1/2" hard cut poker, looking for gay male that needs facial and/or rearing by 6', 200+ average GWM 50's, HIV-, smooth, nongym, aromas ok. ☎ 9831

**Rough And Ready Top**

Lt 50's, 5'10", 185, shrt silver/gray, goatee. If you've got a willing hole, the rest doesn't matter. ☎ 9832

**None Of The Above But Need Sex**

Horny? But not horse hung, toned or young? Marin GWM, 50, HIV+, 5'10", 160lbs, s/p hair and stache, uncut. ISO blow dudies. Will travel. Recip. appreciated, but not required. ☎ 9833

**Cocksucker For You**

Looking for tall vgl men to pleasure. Me: 5'8" s/p hair, short mustache, great mouth, hairy legs, cute, stocky. UB: 5'10" +, nice cut dick. Aroma ok, nd, ns. ☎ 9834

**Dad Spanks Bottom Boys**

Light and erotic to heavier. Novices welcome. Dad-GWM, 46, 6'5" 250lbs. Limits expected. You: attractive GM (White, Asian, Latin), slim, smooth/moderate bodyhair, nice buns. ☎ 9835

**Black/White Ass Play & XXX Fun**

GWM 46 masculine, healthy, uninhibited, hung and HIV+ bottom seeks GBM for hot j/o videos, nude beaches, 40+ white, 20+ black, outdoors. Palo Alto area. ☎ 9919

**Will Suck Your Uncut Cock At:**

My flat- Noe Valley. Older very welcome. Straight welcome. 21st @ Douglade. Regular basis? I'm HIV-. ☎ 9920

**Lean Or Muscular Fuck Btm Boy**

Dominant stud, 6'1", 195#, muscular, early 40's. 8" dick seeks defined, low body fat, "boy" 25-40 who loves to get fucked and give head. ☎ 9921

**Smokers**

WLM 43, 6', 160lbs. ISO other smokers or tolerant non-smokers for sensual kissing, holding & oral action. Husky, non-buffed, facial hair, over 40 A+ No gay scene, gyms, drugs. ☎ 9922

**Hot White Or Latino Bottoms**

Wanted by 55yr old White male 6'0", 170lbs. 9" cut cock, drk brn hair, brn eyes, glasses, wants to fuck a hot White/Latino under 40. ☎ 9924

**Young Handsome Russian**

Very cute intelligent 26yo. Russian bottom is seeking wild passionate sex with other Russians or Europeans under 35. You won't be disappointed. ☎ 9925

**Have It His Way**

Surrender control to this handsome Asian/Hawaiian hunk, 37, with chiseled muscular physique. Love to pump your face and butt. Want to get tied up and used enthusiastically? He will make you cum helplessly! ☎ 1024

**East Bay ISO Top U/C Latin Top**

To service your ampils, cock, balls and ass with tongue/mouth and get a good ride with your rod. I'm White 6', 155# brown/blue, HIV-. ☎ 9926

**Hot Hole On The Island?**

Middle age but endowed top, seeks masculine, mature, submissive men who need their holes filled, front or back, skin on skin, spit 94501. ☎ 9927

**Black Bottom Seeks Top**

Hot SFWM needs slim, smooth Asian bottom to service my needs. Am cute/healthy/young+ big. ☎ 9923

**Top Stud ISO Asian Boy Toy**

Hot SFWM needs slim, smooth Asian bottom to service my needs. Am cute/healthy/young+ big. ☎ 9923

**I Got A Hot Ass To Fuck**

GWM 5'11" HIV-, 174lbs, n/s, n/d. I like to suck cock and get fuck by 7" in or 8" dick and other things that go with it. Age no factor or race. Let's watch videos together. ☎ 9928

**Hot Hairy Muscle Top**

5'8", 170lbs mid 40's dark hair eyes 9" uncut wets. White, Asian, Latin guys, 21-35. Slim bottoms. Cum sit on it. ☎ 9929

**East Bay Fuck Buddy Wanted**

Handsome, masculine WM, 41, looks younger, 6'0", 175# lives in Oakland, looking for masculine, 35-40yo Black male, masculine. ☎ 9930

**Give Me A Good Ride**

Well built toppers, hung big is looking for well built men 20-30's hairy to sit on my face and cock for a good ride. ☎ 9931

**Seeking Anyone W/a Big Butt!**

I love bbs and I'll even pay for it! Packing 180-200 pounds big and able to use this 9 1/2-10 inches and this tongue, wild 4! Freaky too..... ☎ 9932

**Mostly Toothless**

Slim, 60-ish, healthy senior guy, 69 enthusiast, wd. Love to hook up with congenial junior guy in similar condition for prolonged mutual oral affection. ☎ 1015

**Versatile Fuck In The City**

34, 5'10", 195lb, blond/blue muscle hunk wants good looking masculine men to pump full of squirt. Also love to get massaged and jerked off anytime. ☎ 1016

**Golden Opportunity**

For thirty man. Aussie guy, 56, can visit San Francisco for wet weekends. Older defined guys welcome. Time for a hot shower? Call me! ☎ 1017

**Cocksucker On Call**

Need a deep throat expert? 5'8" hairy stache needs dick on a daily basis. Hung & Blacks A+++. ☎ 1018

**Asian Needs TLC**

By fit GWM with hot mouth. Me: 5'7", 135#, 35 clean cut, needs lots of attention. ☎ 1019

**Pec/Nipple Worship**

GWM, 6', 200#, hazel, salt/pepper hair, goatee, tattoos, 43, well built top looking for muscular men who want a lot of attention paid to their pecs/nipples. ☎ 1020

**I Want Your Dick**

Lean well hung face fuckers 30s-40s unload with great cocksucker! dad 48 my place in SF. Facial hair, active oral tops A+. Repeat service for hot guys. ☎ 1021

**Hugs And Kisses Come First**

Looking for extended periods of deep kissing, touching and cuddling. Oral or j/o finish. You: attract, GM (White, Asian, Latin), slim, nice buns. Me: attract, GWM, 46, 6'5", 250lbs, husky build. LTR. ☎ 1022

**Submissive Person Wanted**

Attr. young-looking-acting understanding 70's GWM seeks 18-45 gay or bi-curious gdlk/g man for fantasies: Daddy-sun, master-slave j/g-boy, or just plainsex. Will ☎ 1023

**Total Anal Bottom Bear**

5'10", 195#, GWM, 48. Me: lie on my belly, get my talented asshole fucked long and hard. You horny, ass fucker top- any age, race. Dildoes a plus! ☎ 1111

**Exhibitionist**

Walking around naked get you stiff? Enjoy showing off? Strutting your stuff? Posing? Being admired, stroked, used? Handsome GWM, 40s, tall and trim, enjoys watching and sketching gay/bi or str8 dudes. Erotic massage optional. ☎ 1112

**Married WM Will Pay \$50/Time**

To suck masculine Black man. Day-times- 2-2 times monthly. Prefer discretion, clean, safe, your place/ass arranged. Uninhibited, no hassles. No shaved pubes. Am 40's, nice guy. ☎ 1114

**Ass/Mind Stretching Top Pigs**

Experienced good looking 40's submissive bottom seeks dominance and humiliation by aggressive plowman. Control my mind and body for your pleasure. WS, Fetish, bad habits A+! ☎ 1115

**48 GBM Large Cock**

9" to 10" long and 7" round. Big swollen nipples, big muscle ch. 50". Love to fuck nice round ass. Seeking 18-30, HIV+, big swollen nipples, clean hygiene. ☎ 1116

**Your Dick In My Mouth**

And no teeth (no scraping or scratching). Good looking 64yr, 5'8", 165 GWM seeks masculine GWM. ☎ 1117

**Kick Back!**

GWM, nice, friendly guy luv to play with and suck cock. Seek straight, bi, gay masculine, in-shape guy. Tell me what you like. Let's have fun. ☎ 1118

**FETISHES****Revenge Of The Nerds**

A co-operative of preoccupied, prosperous, prurient precisionist hosts private sensory feasts: detailed, ritualized spectacles. We, singular or jointly, scrutinize and savor fine masculine specimens. Yippeee! Friendly, supportive, safe and ready. ☎ 9739

**Seeking Guys For Sensual Fun**

Latin, stocky, smooth, baby face seeks clean, attractive guys- all shapes and sizes- into fingering, massage, rimming, masturbation, role-playing, voyeurism, one-on-one, threesome+group games, threeway relationships. ☎ 9740

**Daytime Asshole Eater!**

Get your asshole eaten by a pro! ☎ 9741

**2 Big-Dicked Tops**

Lookin' for worked-out bottom who needs both his holes seriously pounded. Stat: 33/175/6'1/8 +, 40/160/5'10"/8. Also: lite bondage, makin' nasty home videos. Safe/discreet only. ☎ 9836

**FFT Want FFB**

I'm GWM 55 with big hands, wrist want GWM 40+ FFB with wide hole for exploration and fun. ☎ 9837

**Bondage Top**

Experienced bondage top, 45, 5'8", 155, attractive, seeks submissive, obedient, masculine, in-shape bottom, 25-45, for erotic bondage and play. Safe, discreet. S.F., East Bay. ☎ 9838

**Sonoma County Body Worship**

Cute, slender guys 18-30 will be thoroughly appreciated by this nice-looking, healthy, generous, fun, middle-aged GWM. Daytimes only. Your place, mine, or my van. No reciprocation necessary. ☎ 9839

**Belcybottoms**

Into big butes on beefy White guys, 35+, in S.F. or Peninsula, to suck & cum on me. Me: GWM, 46, lean, great chest, hairy, cut, horny, attractive +, fun! ☎ 9840

**Humility For Otherwise Het WM**

WM teddybear, 41, 5'10", 210, fantasies licking men's hairy balls as they j/o. Cum on me, then wash it off with piss. Individuals or circle jerks. Any race. Cut preferred. ☎ 9933

**Daytime Asshole - Eater!**

Get your asshole eaten by a pro!! ☎ 1026

**Cigar Pig Boy**

Horny, versatile, maduro smoking, WM, 36, 5'11", 195, buffed, athletic, smooth, seeks other cigar smoking, masculine, aggressive, dominant men for sucking/fucking and verbal ranch. ☎ 9934

**Horn-Dog Retards,**

Sado-scat-men, cheesy uncuts, rowdy throat-fuckers, serviced by hairy, tat-toed, buzzed, bearded gym bod ranch guy cum, scat, piss, spit, ho, v.a. strapping, 40+-. ☎ 9841

**Tongue ISO Protruding Ass-Hole**

Ub thin or wiry L/W/M Mid-Eastern w/clean hole & like sitting on hairy WM face w/active tongue & lot of suction. Love "lippy" ass-hole! ☎ 9935

**Masc ISO B Belies**

Masculine muscle bi male wants big boys for sucking and fucking hairy A+ daytime w me or nights w bear part. ☎ 9936

**Sheer Socks & Barefoot Fetish**

Do you get turned on by looking at bare feet on goodlooking in-shape guys? Do you like the idea of touching each others naked feet? ☎ 9937

**Man W/Toe Ring Ks Foot Partner**

Lifelong excitement looking at/fantasying about men's barefeet. masculine, goodlooking, East Bay GWM, 59", 140#, tan, moderately hairy, HIV-, loves reciprocal kissing, licking, massaging barefeet, safe j/o. Let's get barefoot! ☎ 9938

**GWM Looking For GM With**

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# Freaks and geeks

by Victoria A. Brownworth

Well, my dears, the World Series, Halloween and the elections are all over, which means it must be time to put the chewing tobacco, boas and Pokemon costumes away and turn on the tube. It's swee-pps month — the only explanation for Whoopi Goldberg starring as a leprechaun (isn't that stretching the term black Irish just a tad?) in NBC's eponymous miniseries. However, as *Will & Grace's* Karen would say, there will be mucho to watch over the next few weeks. Our querulous query: Why are all the best shows on network TV in competing slots on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday nights while the rest of the week, frankly, sucks (unless one actually likes *Monday Night Football*, *JAG* and *Touched by an Angel*)?

The worst night has to be Thursday: Fox's only decent new show, the acerbic *Action*, runs counter to *Wasteland*, Kevin Williamson's het-queer angst-fest on ABC, the WB's campy set-in-San Francisco witchfest *Charmed*, NBC's queerish sit-coms *Frasier* and *Stark Raving Mad*, and PBS's always marvelous *Mystery!* We've considered going to the mall and tuning in different sets in the electronics department of

Bloomies, but that seems, well, so Rosie O'Donnell. Nevertheless, Thursday really does provide must-see TV.

We were *Charmed* by last week's episode which featured the crafty sisters Holly-Marie Coombs (Piper), Alyssa Milano (Phoebe) and Shannen "Slugger" Doherty (Pru) battling a sexy succubus who drains the life out of men with her serpent-like tongue. (The censors missed a

beat on this one — this tonguing looked like the beleaguered boys gagged to death while felling Jeff Stryker's glandular cousin.) The trio cast a spell to root out the problem, so to speak, but end up turning Pru into a man.

Though Pru needed some coaching in how to act like a guy — à la *La Cage Aux Folles* — we loved Doherty in drag-king regalia, particularly as s/he declared, "I have a penis!" while her sisters pondered whether or not Pru was touching her/himself (yes, that kind of touching). We chuckled when Pru declared s/he had to pee and Piper and Phoebe chimed in unison, "Don't forget to put the seat back down." Well, this is a chick show.

Meanwhile, *Action* always charms us. The snappy sitcom just took the queer plunge as Peter (Jay Mohr) flirted with some gay feelings. Unlike the hand-wringing of the Williamson vehicles or

thigh-slapping campiness of *W & G*, *Action* pulls no punches; Mohr's Peter Dragon slithers his way through Hollywood oozing and schmoozing. Producers are gay, women are whores, Jews are writers, blacks are pimps — the stereotypes abound, but they work, there's something to offend everyone. And the dialogue — particularly Mohr's razor wit and Illeana Douglas' (as Wendy, child star turned prostitute turned Dragon's girlfriend and amanuensis) dry-as-an-Uptown-martini

cides to come out, and Peter tries to negotiate him back in the closet by suggesting that he, too, is queer — only the scheme goes awry. Peter starts to feel gay urges, and Cole comes out anyway — and drags the het Peter with him. Some of the exchanges were superb and made us wonder why Williamson, et al. can't write some cutting-edge out dialogue.

Cole Ricardi: I'm ready to come out of the closet. Peter: Are you nuts? Shall we call Hasbro and tell them the action figures

gal pal Lara Flynn Boyle. "Camryn could just pick her up in her arms and cradle her like a baby and give her a big wet one." (Hmmm — thought about this much, Dylan?)

In response to accusations that Kelley penned the scene to boost ratings, Thomas Gibson (Greg of *Dharma and*), who worked with Kelley on *Chicago Hope*, gave a much more P.C. response than McDermott (which might rate him a cover on *The Advocate*). "Kelley's just showing what part of the country does and looks like, and that can't be a bad thing." (Unlike *Dharma and Greg*.)

And we note with sadness that David Hasselhoff is leaving *Baywatch* after ten years of lifesaving. We aren't sure if George Hamilton clued him in to the dangers of skin cancer or he just couldn't bear to get another pec lift. Regardless, we know the folks at Hawaiian Tropic will be miserable for some time — Hasselhoff used more oil to lube up than the Exxon Valdez on a foggy night.

Sweeps VCR Alerts: Dame Diana Rigg appears at her acerbic, period best in PBS's *Mystery!* miniseries, "Speedy Death" (debuting tonight and running for several weeks). Tune to Fox the hour before for a howling good time with *When Good Pets Go Bad* or, Our Fine Feral Friends (would we make this up? *Could we?*) For pure camp value plus nostalgia, tune in Saturday for ABC's *Come on, Get Happy: The Partridge Family Story*, if only to hear David Cassidy yell, "I have a life... and public hair!" An anal wart and all view of TV's singing *Brady Bunch*. And for those who miss the Big Apple or who've never been, PBS debuts the ten-part New York: A Documentary Film Saturday, directed and produced by Ric Burns. Mesmerizing. ▼

When Peter tries to convince Cole that he's gay, too, he claims, "I'm gayer than a leather pinata." And as Peter declares, hugging Cole, "We're sisters now," the music swells — The Carpenters' *We've Only Just Begun*.

*Ally McBeal* was all the buzz last week for something other than Calista Flockhart's anorexia. The lesbian flirtation between Flockhart and Lisa Lu provided the apex of *AMcB's* late-season premiere. Dylan McDermott (David Kelley's other big Emmy-winner, for *The Practice*) told *Access Hollywood* he'd like to see Kelley write a same-sex scene for *The Practice* between our favorite fat chick, Emmy-winner Camryn Manheim, and Jack Nicholson's

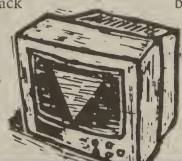
**Unlike the hand-wringing of the Kevin Williamson vehicles or thigh-slapping campiness of Will & Grace, Action pulls no punches.**

delivery — rocks.

Note this exchange between Dragon and a Rabbi he's gone to for solace. Peter: I tell you I'm facing my imminent death and you show me a spec script? Rabbi: Barbra Streisand's interested. Peter: To star or direct? Rabbi: Direct. Peter: Forget it. Or when Peter bargains with God: You haven't always been a perfect God — earthquakes, floods, the Ebola virus, Hanson.

## Gay ep

The recent gay episode had us reaching for our Depends — pants-pissing hilarious. An action-stud actor, Cole Ricardi, de-



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## MUSIC

# Paying respects

by Gregg Shapiro

Both the Go-Go's and Dinah Washington made the cut on "VH1's 100 Greatest Women in Rock," at 48 and 76, respectively. Another measure of an artist's influence is a tribute album, and both the Go-Go's and Dinah Washington have recently been paid such a compliment.

The various artists disc *Unsealed: A Tribute to The Go-Go's* (4 Alarm Records) and *A Tribute to Dinah Washington* (Musette/Oglio) by Yvette Freeman do their part to pay their respects. At the beginning of their recording career, The Go-Go's were considered to be punk. Punk rock, like all styles of music, has evolved, and although The Go-Go's seem tame in retrospect, a whole new generation of punk rock-influenced musicians revives the spirit. Chainsaw Kittens purr through "We Got The Beat" (and work some Bowie and Pop into the mix with "Nightclubbing"), The Frogs take a "Vacation," Sugarsmack does "Turn To You," Fig Dish tackles "Head Over Heels," and Truly opens up "Our Lips Are Sealed," to name a few.

Actress and singer Yvette Freeman won a Best Female Performer Obie Award in 1998 for her portrayal of Dinah Washington in the play *Dinah Was*. Included among the dozen songs on Freeman's *A Tribute to Dinah Washington* you will find her renditions of such Dinah Washington classics as "How Deep Is The Ocean," "Come Rain Or Come Shine," "Blue Gardenia," "My Foolish Heart," "I Wanna Be Loved," and "Gambler's Blues" (which was written by Washington).

*Return Of The Grievous Angel: A Tribute to Gram Parsons* (Almo Sounds) draws on performers who might expect to hear on a tribute to the beloved Parsons (Cowboy Junkies, The Mavericks, Wilco, Whiskeytown, and Gillian Welch), as well as some surprises (Pre-tenders, Elvis Costello, and duets featuring Beck and Emmylou Harris, Evan Dando and Julianna Hatfield). Both the expected and unexpected artists on this disc turn in exceptional and respectful performances. Particularly wonderful are the duets by Steve Earle and Chris Hillman ("High Fashion Queen"), Lucinda Williams and David Crosby ("Return Of The Grievous Angel"), and Sheryl Crow and Emmylou Harris ("Juanita"). ▼



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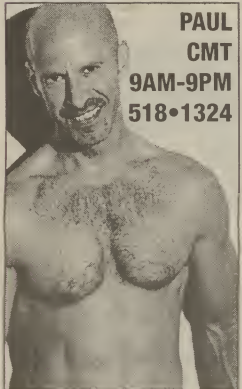
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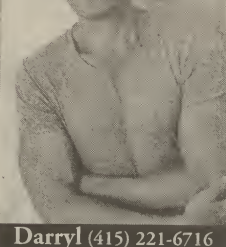
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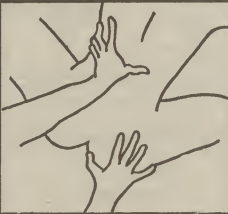
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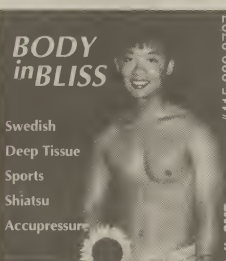
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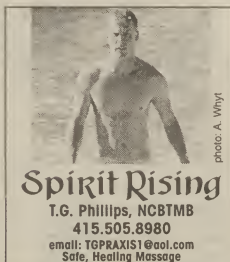
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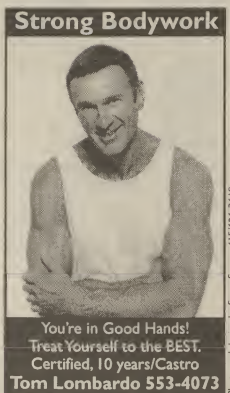
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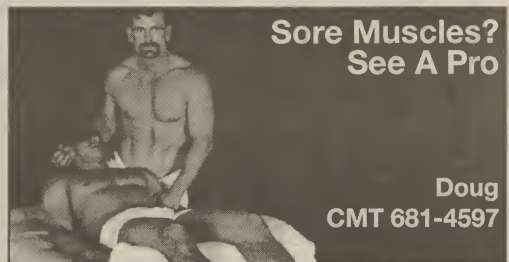
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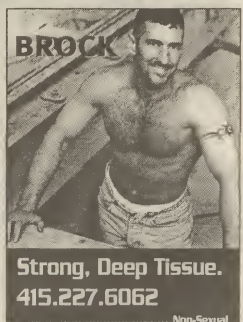
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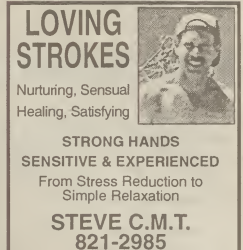
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## MODELS/ESCORTS

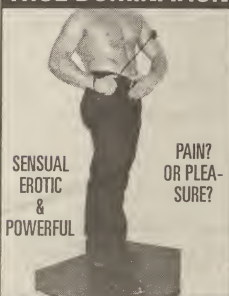
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Versatile, pg 415-210-2624

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All-American, cleancut, no tats  
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**MUSCULAR, HANDSOME**  
No attitude, out  
Marco 414-1254

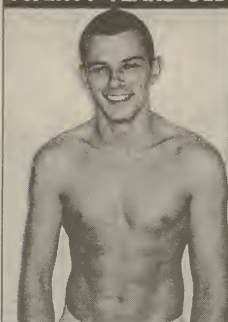
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Cute blk boy, 21, 5'8", 130lbs. 8"u/c  
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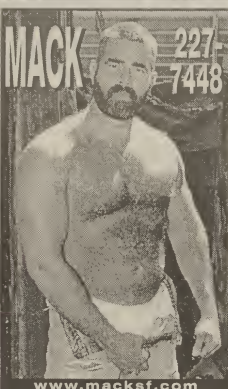
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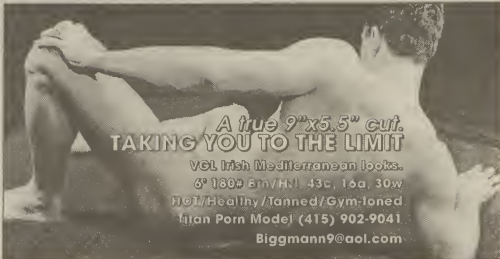
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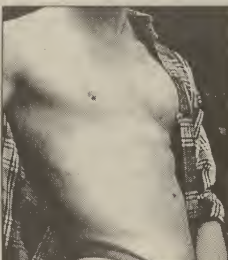
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